

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 241

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4, 2013

www.saipantribune.com

75¢

GOT A **NEWS TIP?**

TEL: 235-6397  
235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

**OPINION METER**

This week's poll:

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet?

Let your voice be heard!  
Go to  
[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)  
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

LOCAL



Nobody throws a party like Hyatt Regency Saipan. ➤ **PAGE 8**

BUSINESS



Amazon is working on a way to get packages to customers via drones. ➤ **PAGE 15**

LIFE & STYLE



Officials say that action star Paul Walker's crash was not part of street race. ➤ **PAGE 19**

Man, 26, allegedly sexually abused minor. **PAGE 2**  
Visiting Chinese teacher sues 8 CBP officers. **PAGE 5**

## Govt prepares for spike in health insurance expense

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**H**ealth insurance premiums for government employees and retirees could go up by 30 percent to 45 percent as early as Jan. 1, 2014, unless the government finds innovative ways to keep the costs low, Gov. Eloy S. Inos told lawmakers yesterday.

The anticipated increase in health insurance premiums was among the topics of discussions at the governor and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider's meeting with members of the House and Senate yesterday, along with needed changes to both the pension obligation bond and Commonwealth Development Authority laws.



Inos

Inos said right now, the premium paid to service provider Aetna is around \$18 million.

Half or \$9 million of that is paid by the employer/government and the remaining \$9 million is by government employees/retirees.

"Of the \$9 million that the employer pays, about \$7 million is attributed to retirees, about \$2 million is for active [members]," the governor said in an interview after his closed-door meeting with lawmakers.

Aetna, the current provider for the government health plan, did not bid on the latest request for proposals. Two other insurance firms did.

The government's existing agreement with Aetna will expire on Dec. 31.

"Based on what's proposed, [there's] between 30 and 45 percent increase [in insurance premium]," the governor said after the meeting.

One estimate for healthcare benefits received, for example, would increase premiums by 43 percent, which would increase total annual costs from approximately \$18 million to \$25 million.

The expected insurance premium hikes pose an additional challenge to the government that now also has to pump money into the global Retirement Fund settlement agreement and restore 25 per-

cent of retirees' pension, as well as continue to pay employer contribution for health and life insurance.

In the leadership meeting, the governor and lawmakers discussed revenue-generating bills that could help cushion

### RELATED NEWS

➤ Govt exploring options amid rising health insurance costs. **PAGE 6**

the impact of an insurance premium increase, among other things.

Moreover, the administration is looking at the impact of the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare on health insurance premiums in the

CNMI.

"I emphasized the importance of addressing these issues right away," Inos said of yesterday's meeting with lawmakers.

One of the ways to deal with the issue, he said, is coming up with "variations in terms of coverage."

"One way would be to see how we can

**See HEALTH on Page 4**

## CUC bats for higher late charges and reconnection fees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The days of paying the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. a paltry fine for late payments may be numbered if the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approves a CUC request to enforce a new non-rate fee schedule effective next month.

Under CUC's current non-rate electric fees, customers are assessed a late charge equal to 1 percent of the past due amount. Under the new proposal, CUC wants to increase this to 10 percent of the past due.

The same adjustment is being sought for water and wastewater customers under its non-rate water

**See CUC on Page 4**



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, House Committee on Commerce chair Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Reps. Tony Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) look on during a meeting with Marianas Visitors Authority officials led by managing director Perry Tenorio, foreground, yesterday afternoon in the House chamber. About the same time, Gov. Eloy S. Inos was meeting with other lawmakers in the governor's conference room.

## CNMI as 'flower destination'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
COM. REPORTER

➤ **MVA briefs House tourism panel**

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio briefed the House Committee on Commerce yesterday

about ongoing destination enhancements financially boosted by a

5 percentage point increase in hotel tax early this year, and an idea to develop the CNMI as a "flower destination," among other things.

"I support the proposal of developing the CNMI as a flower destination but it's very difficult to change the brand because the CNMI has been known for beach vacations. It would take time," Tourism Committee chair Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune*.

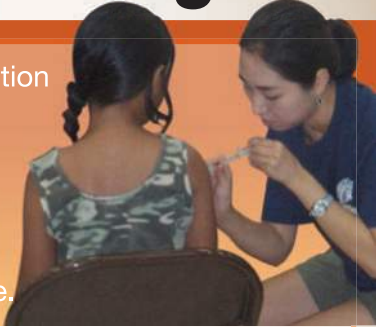
Nevertheless, he said, the more attractions the CNMI can offer to its tourists

**See FLOWER on Page 4**



## DPH Immunization Program

- Hepatitis B virus attacks the liver and infection may develop into serious liver problems.
- Hepatitis B is the common cause of chronic liver disease in the CNMI.
- Chronic liver disease is marked by the gradual destruction of liver tissue over time.



The CNMI Division of Public Health and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, are conducting a

### Hepatitis B Serosurvey

among first grade children to see if they are protected against hepatitis B.



The survey will be performed on school campuses and will consist of a **FINGER PRICK** similar to that of a blood sugar test. This small sample will be taken and tested for Hepatitis B. All test results will be kept strictly confidential and this survey will greatly benefit the CNMI by providing important information on how common hepatitis B infection is for our children.



So please have your first grade child participate in this survey to know if your child is **PROTECTED** against Hepatitis B Virus infection.

For more information please contact Public Health Immunization Program at 236 8745.



### Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



## Local

## Wiseman orders Woodruff to start three-day prison term on Thursday

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued an order yesterday directing disbarred lawyer Stephen C. Woodruff to start serving his three-day prison sentence for contempt of court on Thursday at 8am.

Wiseman said this option for Woodruff to report voluntarily to the Department of Corrections in Susupe shall cease to exist at 8:01am Thursday.

If Woodruff fails to report to DOC by then, he shall be arrested and processed as any other person brought to DOC for detention.

Upon his release, Woodruff will be given five days to comply with the court's other mandates. At the end of the five days, the court will set a hearing date to determine compliance and any other sanctions, if necessary.

The disbarred lawyer was originally sentenced to five days in prison, but because he did submit something that partially complied with court orders, Wiseman said he will not impose the whole five-day sentence at this time.

The judge said he finds it necessary and appropriate to partially revoke the respondent's five-day suspended sentence due to Woodruff's willful non-compliance.

Wiseman said he finds this action to be necessary based on the testimony presented at the Nov. 21 hearing, Woodruff's refusal to accept any responsibility for the harm caused to former clients by his inactions and actions, and the record in this case.

"The court is very concerned about potential ongoing prejudice and injury to the rights of respondent's former clients and finds it very disturbing that respondent expresses no remorse or acceptance of any responsibility for the harm he has caused to many and listens to their testimony in his state of indifference," the judge said.

According to court records, Wiseman ordered Woodruff's disbarment from the CNMI Bar on June 7, 2013, for 44 violations of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

On Oct. 2, 2013, Wiseman found Woodruff in contempt of court for not complying with the mandate of Rule 15 of the Commonwealth Disciplinary Rules and Procedures and of the disbarment order.

Woodruff was sentenced to five days in prison but it was

suspended on the condition that he comply with the mandates.

Woodruff then submitted an affidavit pursuant to Rule 15, which the court did not find satisfactory so the judge set a hearing for him to explain how he believes his submission was in compliance.

At the hearing, Wiseman found that Woodruff has still not complied with the mandates of Rule 15 and its disbarment order.

On Nov. 22, Wiseman issued an order, stating that the court will issue an arrest warrant on Nov. 26 for Woodruff to serve five days in prison.

On Nov. 26, the judge did not issue an arrest warrant because Woodruff submitted the document that the judge has been asking him to comply with the disbarment order. Also on Nov. 26, Woodruff filed a motion to stay the execution of his sentence pending appeal. In his order issued Friday, Wiseman denied Woodruff's request.

In his order yesterday that partially revoked the suspended sentence, Wiseman said that Woodruff has consistently refused to comply with the court orders regarding his disbarment and Rule 15 mandates, by "utilizing rhetorical positions and arguments that set forth frivolous arguments" such as the nonexistent automatic stay, which he extensively argued at the October hearing and subsequent submissions.

In addition, Wiseman noted, Woodruff has placed the blame for everything he is encountering with these and other ethical problems and proceedings by challenging the court's jurisdiction.

Police arrested a 26-year-old man last week for allegedly sexually abusing a 15-year-old girl more than five times on Saipan.

Daniel M. Williams was arrested on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, sexual assault in the first degree, sexual assault in the second degree, and disturbing the peace.

He is being kept on a \$75,000 cash bail. Police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that a man called a police detective on Nov. 25 to report that Williams sexually abused his daughter.

That same day, Kintoki said, she interviewed the girl, who confessed that Williams first sexually abused her in June this year.

The girl said she was sleeping in her bedroom when Williams came inside and repeatedly asked her to have sex with him.

The girl said she refused, but he insisted and sexually abused her. The girl claimed that Williams sexually abused her more than five times whenever her parents and siblings were asleep.

The father became suspicious of Williams so he confronted his daughter if there was anything going on with her and the suspect.

The daughter then confessed, prompting him to call the police. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Wiseman said that Woodruff has also accused him of being biased and prejudiced, although he has never filed a written motion nor stated any grounds for his accusations.

Wiseman said he has been very patient with Woodruff's reluctance and repeated attempts to avoid full compliance with the mandates to comply with the court's orders.

However, the judge said, his patience and temperance shall not prevent him from entering appropriate sanctions when warranted in order to protect and preserve the public's confidence in the administration of justice.

"Notwithstanding these allegations of blame there are still numerous clients who have been found to be harmed as well as those who have alleged harm as a result of respondent's inactions and actions," he said.

In his supplemental affidavit, Woodruff again argued that his original Rule 15 affidavit was self-explanatory and that he is at a loss as to what more is required of him.

Wiseman said the disbarment order was clear and unambiguous in ordering Woodruff to, among other things, send notices to clients and others and certifications to the court, submit a list of current and pending clients, notify all clients in pending matters of his disbarment and to advise them to substitute another attorney.

Man, 26, allegedly sexually abused minor

Police arrested a 26-year-old man last week for allegedly sexually abusing a 15-year-old girl more than five times on Saipan. Daniel M. Williams was arrested on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, sexual assault in the first degree, sexual assault in the second degree, and disturbing the peace. He is being kept on a \$75,000 cash bail. Police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that a man called a police detective on Nov. 25 to report that Williams sexually abused his daughter. That same day, Kintoki said, she interviewed the girl, who confessed that Williams first sexually abused her in June this year. The girl said she was sleeping in her bedroom when Williams came inside and repeatedly asked her to have sex with him. The girl said she refused, but he insisted and sexually abused her. The girl claimed that Williams sexually abused her more than five times whenever her parents and siblings were asleep. The father became suspicious of Williams so he confronted his daughter if there was anything going on with her and the suspect. The daughter then confessed, prompting him to call the police. (Ferdie de la Torre)

## NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM



Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.

Ask if your baby passed the test.  
If you have concerns or your baby needs follow up call 236-8709.



### Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Printing is funded by the Cooperative Agreement for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance and Integration.





# 30 apply for hospital's chief financial officer post

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The search for a chief financial officer for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. may soon be over following disclosure that 30 individuals have expressed interest in the position.

Corporation board chair Joaquin Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that majority of these applicants meet the statutory requirements of the job. The va-

cancy was advertised nationally to get a good pool of candidates.

Torres said the corporation's human resource department is now reviewing all documents to ensure that the most qualified and experienced candidate is selected.

The position has been vacant for quite some time now. The last time the corporation had a CFO was during the tenure of Alvaro Santos, an appointee of former CEO Juan N. Babauta.

The CHCC board earlier disclosed that the Office of the Governor, using the governor's discretionary funds, has promised to shoulder for at least a year the salaries of the hospital CFO and whoever will be appointed the permanent CEO, in consideration of the financial condition of the corporation.

Based on the early vacancy announcements, a CFO may be paid up to \$120,000 per annum.

According to Torres, most of

the 30 applicants are from off-island and are credentialed for the job. However, a decision can only be made after everything has been fully reviewed by the HR and interim CEO Esther Muña.

Meantime, the issue of appointing a permanent CEO for the hospital remains in the back burner for now. Both Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Torres separately stated that a decision on the matter will be made as soon as the result of the Medicare resurvey is released.

The U.S. Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services recently visited the Common-

wealth Health Center to check whether it has remedied the many issues and deficiencies that were identified at the hospital last year.

At that time, the hospital was slapped with immediate jeopardy statuses and CMS threatened to revoke CHC's Condition of Participation with Medicare if the deficiencies are not resolved.

A decision on CHC's continued participation in Medicare remains pending at the federal level.

"We have an agreement with the governor that the decision for the permanent CEO position

will be made after the result of the resurvey," Torres said.

He admitted, though, that the CHCC board has already recommended Muña's appointment as permanent CEO, with a salary base of up to \$150,000 per annum.

Muña, the corporation's chief operating officer, became interim CEO after the termination of Juan N. Babauta in March this year. Her salary was also adjusted from \$85,000 per annum to \$96,000 in consideration of the additional tasks she's performing for the organization.

## CHCC board seeks report on Walker's departure

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The squabble that arose in the wake of the departure of the Commonwealth Health Center's lone hospital orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Grant Walker, has prompted the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board to ask for a detailed report of the incident.

CHCC board chair Joaquin Torres confirmed this yesterday, adding that the board's request has been relayed to interim CEO Esther Muña and that she is expected to comply with it anytime soon.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Muña is currently in the U.S. mainland on official business and will be back next week.

Walker, who was hired on a one-month contract for CHC's orthopedic department, left yesterday for Idaho.

Walker had earlier announced that he was moving to the private sector in the CNMI but he changed his mind after the corporation's governing body barred him from using the hospital's facilities once he is in the private sector. There were also allegations of insubordination, which Walker denied.

Torres said he felt sad about the doctor's departure and wanted to be enlightened by all the facts behind the story.

"Honestly, I was initially alarmed and felt that it wasn't made correctly. But after calling the interim CEO, I have better understanding about the issue," Torres said, adding that he felt more comfortable as soon as he found out that the decision of the governing body was made in consultation with the corporation's legal counsel.

He said that as soon as the report is turned in, members will be furnished a copy for their information.

Torres said that whenever somebody leaves the hospital, especially doctors, he can't help but feel sad because he understands the critical need for their services.

"We need to do something to prevent this from happening again. We will ask for a comprehensive review of all the positions and once completed, it will help us to come up with the necessary actions [in such cases]," he added.

As of this month, the corporation has 24 doctors, including one doctor each at the Rota and Tinian clinics. The public hospital needs at least 10 more doctors, including an orthopedic surgeon—a position that has been vacant since the departure of Dr. Ruben Arafles last year.

## Inos seeks changes to POB, CDA laws for bond float

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos asked lawmakers yesterday to amend both the pension obligation bond law and the Commonwealth Development Authority Act before the CNMI could proceed with floating a bond worth "anywhere between \$60 million and \$80 million"—well below the maximum \$300 million authorized by Public Law 18-12.

The governor and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider held a closed-door leadership meeting with members of the House of Representatives and Senate yesterday afternoon.

In an interview after the meeting, the governor said that since this is not going to be a tax-exempt bond, "it will carry a higher interest rate than we're used to in the past" but would help the CNMI financially "up to five years."

"We don't want to have a volume that would put a lot of strain on cash flow," Inos said, referring to the expected \$60 million to \$80 million bond float as opposed to a higher amount.

As a non-tax-exempt bond, the POB "needs to be backed by gross receipts revenue as opposed to the full faith and credit of the CNMI," the governor added.

House Speaker Joseph DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) separately said that among the governor's recommended changes

to the POB law is to ensure portions of the bond proceeds will go toward addressing the terms of the Retirement Fund's global settlement agreement.

Only about half of the 29 members of the 18th Legislature were in attendance, as at least eight members of the House Committee on Tourism were holding a meeting with the Marianas Visitors Authority in the House chamber, while others were off-island. Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) also led some senators in the meeting.

Administration-drafted bills to amend both the POB and CDA laws are expected in the next few days.

Public Law 18-12, which Inos signed on July 2, authorizes CDA to issue pension obligation bonds of up to \$300 million on behalf of the CNMI to pay the government's obligation to the NMI Retirement Fund.

The POB law was signed a few months before the federal court approved a Fund global settlement agreement.

Inos said the POB law needs to be amended "just to make sure it's accurate and it reflects the full intent of the effort," based on prior consultation with CDA's bond underwriters and bond counsel.

"There's an amendment that needs to be made to the CDA Act that would allow CDA to issue that particular type of bond," the governor added, referring to a non-tax-exempt bond.

### Other issues

Besides the pension obligation bond, the leadership meeting also tackled the health insurance for government employees, revenue-generating measures, and addressing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s needs.

The speaker said they offered recommendations to the governor on ways to commit funding to CUC, which remains under a state of emergency.

"One is to earmark more CIP [capital improvement project] funding to CUC and that would take care of stipulated orders, the requirements for it, and capital improvement projects for CUC," he said.

The speaker said it would be up to the administration how much in CIP funding it will commit to CUC.

Government agencies owe CUC some \$18 million in utility bills.

The governor, for his part, said the government is "heavily subsidizing CUC through a very high rate."

Government rate is substantially higher than commercial and residential rates.

"We're working on the basis that we pay our bills because we're just another customer; the only thing is that the rate that we pay is higher than anybody else," he said.

Inos added that the government will also continue to keep utility consumption costs low.



## Get to your dream destination faster with the United MileagePlus® Credit Card\*

Who knew everyday purchases could be so rewarding? Use your United MileagePlus® Credit Card and earn award miles while you spend.

Apply by December 31, 2013 and, if you are approved, you can receive\*\*:

- Up to 25,000 MileagePlus® bonus award miles
- 5,000 bonus miles upon account opening
- 20,000 bonus miles after spending \$1,500 on qualifying purchases within the first three months of account opening
- 2 miles for every \$1 of qualifying purchases until March 31, 2014
- \$0 Intro annual fee for the first year (\$60 thereafter)†

APPLY TODAY. Visit any branch or [fhb.com](http://fhb.com) or call 1-800-215-4149 for more information.

**MileagePlus**  
UNITED

**First Hawaiian Bank**

Yes, We Care.

**fhb.com**  
Member FDIC



**Gualo Rai Branch**, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094  
**Oleai Branch**, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan LauLau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936

\*Miles accrued, awards, and benefits issued are subject to change and are subject to the rules of the United MileagePlus program, including without limitation the Premier® program (the "MileagePlus Program"), which are expressly incorporated herein. Please allow 6-8 weeks after completed qualifying activity for miles to post to your account. United may change the MileagePlus Program including, but not limited to, rules, regulations, travel awards and special offers or terminate the MileagePlus Program at any time and without notice. United and its subsidiaries, affiliates and agents are not responsible for any products or services of other participating companies and partners. Taxes and fees related to award travel are the responsibility of the member. Bonus award miles, award miles and any other miles earned through non-flight activity do not count toward qualification for Premier status unless expressly stated otherwise. The accumulation of mileage or Premier status or any other status does not entitle members to any vested rights with respect to the MileagePlus Program. MileagePlus Program participation may not be permitted in some countries. All calculations made in connection with the MileagePlus Program, including without limitation with respect to the accumulation of mileage and the satisfaction of the qualification requirements for Premier status, will be made by United Airlines and MileagePlus in their discretion and such calculations will be considered final. Information in this communication that relates to the MileagePlus Program does not purport to be complete or comprehensive and may not include all of the information that a member may believe is important, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to all of the information on the [united.com](http://united.com) website and the MileagePlus Program rules. United and MileagePlus are registered service marks. For complete details about the MileagePlus Program, go to [www.united.com](http://www.united.com).

\*\*Subject to credit approval. Apply for the United MileagePlus® credit card by 12/31/13 and if you're approved, receive 5,000 bonus miles at account opening and 20,000 bonus miles if you spend \$1,500 in qualifying purchases within the first 3 months after your account is opened. Also, you'll earn 2 miles per \$1 spent on net qualifying purchases up to \$5,000 until 3/31/14; and 1 mile per \$1 spent on purchases after that.

† The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for Purchases is a variable rate of 16.24% as of 10/23/13. The intro fixed APR for balance transfers is 2.99% for the first eight billing cycles following the opening of your account for balance transfers made within the 30 days of account opening. After that, the variable rate will apply. The fixed Cash Advance APR is 18.00%. The fixed Penalty APR is 18.00% and may be applied if you make a late payment. The Minimum Interest Charge will be no less than \$1.00. The Foreign Transaction Fee is 2.5% of the U.S. dollar amount of any Purchase or Cash Advance made in a foreign currency. The ATM Cash Advance Fee is 3% of the transaction amount (\$3 min) and the Over-the-Counter Cash Advance, Balance Transfer and Convenience Check Fees are 3% of the transaction amount (\$5 min). \$0 introductory annual fee for the first year after account opening; thereafter, the annual fee is \$60. Additional limitation, terms and conditions apply. See the United MileagePlus® Credit Card Agreement for more information.



# Light at the end of tunnel for electronic gaming bill

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said yesterday that the Senate will take up at its next session a conference committee version of an electronic gaming bill "in the spirit of moving forward," despite his objection to the \$2,500 license fee for each machine that he considers "too low."

Senate action on the electronic gaming bill committee report has been stalled over Torres' concerns about the license fee, which he said is

much lower than the \$12,500 imposed on each poker machine on Saipan.

A leadership meeting yesterday afternoon between the administration and the Legislature led to an understanding for the need to move forward with the revenue-generating bill.

"It looks like there's light at the end of the tunnel," Gov. Eloy S. Inos said of the electronic gaming bill's status.

There are enough votes to adopt the committee report



Torres

that the House adopted weeks back. Senate adoption of the committee report essentially means passage of the bill and sending it to the governor for action.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), author of the electronic gaming bill and chairman of the

House Ways and Means Committee, said the joint House-Senate conference committee reached a compromise on the fees.

"We agreed on the \$2,500 license fee per machine [as op-

posed to \$10,000 or \$12,500], hoping that with that amount, investors will more likely bring in more machines. The more machines available to players, I believe, the more gaming revenues will be generated and that's where we're leaning—the bulk of the revenues would come from gaming proceeds and not the license fee," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The committee report recommends that businesses engaged in electronic gaming be made ineligible for a qualifying certificate, a tax break program.

It also only allows electronic gaming operations at hotels or resorts with at least 100 rooms or those attached to a golf course if they have less than 100 rooms. These are only allowed on Saipan.

This comes days after the Senate essentially killed anew a House bill legalizing casino operations on Saipan.

But at yesterday's leadership meeting, the governor said there was still a mention

of the Saipan casino bill.

He said another revenue-generating bill is now on his desk, the tax amnesty bill, which he said will help provide some cash flow "but it's not something that will give a big shot in the arm in terms of revenue needs."

Also pending is an Internet gaming bill. Meanwhile, a request for proposals for video lottery operations has yet to be issued.

## Alleged victim collapses during Monkeya's trial

The alleged victim collapsed yesterday morning while testifying for the government in the ongoing jury trial of Melvin Ilo Monkeya, a former Tinian police officer accused of sexually abusing her in 2008 when she was 14 years old inside the Tinian police station.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the alleged victim was rushed to the Tinian Health Center after she fainted during her testimony on the stand. She reportedly has a history of anxiety attacks.

The alleged victim returned in the afternoon to finish her tes-

timony.

The prosecutors also called Monkeya's son to the witness stand.

The trial, which is being held at the Superior Court Tinian, will continue today. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho is presiding.

Chief prosecutor Shelli Neal and assistant attorney general Chemere McField are prosecuting the case. Attorney Jennifer Dockter is counsel for Monkeya, who is charged with one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Trial of Guam ex-convict facing gun charges begins

The jury trial of Jesus S. Palacios, an ex-convict in Guam who was indicted on Saipan for alleged possession of two guns and 27 bullets, began yesterday in federal court.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom in the afternoon, Tania Kapila, a fingerprint specialist with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was still on the

witness stand.

Kapila testified as the U.S. government's expert in the recovery of latent prints and fingerprint comparison.

Before Kapila, Howard H. Kong, a firearm and toolmark examiner with the ATF, testified for the U.S. government as an expert about the modified .22 caliber rifle.

Assistant U.S. attorneys

Rami Badawy and Ross Naughton are prosecuting the case. Attorney Mark Scoggins is the court-appointed counsel for Palacios.

The indictment charged the 52-year-old Palacios with three counts of a felon in possession of firearm and/or ammunition and three counts of unlawful use of a controlled substance in possession of firearm and/or

ammunition.

Police arrested Palacios in April 2013 for allegedly beating up his wife in front of their child and pointing a gun at her head.

Police said that Palacios was arrested in Guam in 1997 and charged with murder, manslaughter, and possession of a gun without an ID. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Inos upbeat about today's kickoff of Micronesian chiefs summit

Micronesian presidents and governors will kick off today the three-day 19th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit that will take on issues of common concerns and solutions. Gov. Eloy S. Inos is upbeat on the cooperation by the region's leaders.

"I'm really excited. ... We've got a lot of things to discuss that affect our region.

But most of all I look forward to the cooperation of each jurisdiction; I think it's going to be a good one," Inos said.

Among the topics on agenda are climate change, tourism, healthcare, shark conservation, and human trafficking.

Inos said he is also looking forward to the Association of Pacific Islands' Legislature's presentation on the concept

of a regional health insurance coverage.

The opening ceremonies will be at 1pm today at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

In all, there will be three presidents and five governors and one lieutenant governor from all around Micronesia on Saipan for the summit.

The summit will bring together Marshall Islands President

Christopher J. Loeak, Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel Mori, and Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr.

They will be joined by the CNMI's Inos, Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo, Yap Gov. Sebastian L. Anefal, Pohnpei Gov. John Ehsa, Chuuk Gov. Johnson S. Elimo, and Kosrae Lt. Gov. Carson Sigrah. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

## FLOWER

From Page 1

besides its beaches and historic monuments, the better.

Yumul said the idea was first brought up during last week's meeting of the Japan Marianas Tourism Committee at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Tenorio told House tourism committee members that the idea of developing the CNMI as a flower destination is something that the MVA board would soon take up.

In responding to lawmakers' questions, Tenorio said Public Law 18-1, which increased hotel occupancy tax by 5 percentage points on April 1 this year, helped MVA increase its fiscal year 2014 budget for offshore promotions to \$5 million from

previous year's annual budget of \$2.5 million to \$3 million.

As for ongoing destination enhancements, Tenorio and MVA's Martin Duenas told lawmakers about improvements in safety and aesthetics in the historic Marpi area. These include repairs to restrooms and railings. Duenas said the Sugar King train has been restored with the help of visiting U.S. military personnel.

"These projects are not limited to Saipan, but also on Rota and Tinian," Tenorio told lawmakers. Accompanying Tenorio and Duenas at the meeting were MVA's Judy Torres and chief accountant Criselda Francisco.

Yumul later said that MVA has so far used \$57,000 of the over \$214,000 set aside for destination enhancement.

"One important issue I want

to emphasize is that MVA said it is current in its payments to off-island vendors. That's a good thing," he added.

Tenorio also said that MVA continues to await action on a tour guides certification program legislation now pending in the Senate. He said designating Marpi as a "state park" is also on the pipeline.

House Tourism Committee vice chair Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) and committee member Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) separately commended MVA for its destination enhancement and marketing strides.

"It's nice to know that tourism money is being put to good use," Villagomez added.

Yumul said the tourism committee had long scheduled the meeting with MVA, held in the

House chamber yesterday afternoon, coinciding with Gov. Eloy S. Inos' joint leadership meeting with the Legislature in the governor's conference room.

Besides Yumul, Tebuteb, and Villagomez, other House members in the meeting with MVA yesterday were Reps. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Tony Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Richard Seman (R-Saipan) and George Camacho (R-Saipan). They therefore were not in the meeting with the governor.

"The committee called for this meeting with MVA so we can be up-to-date with what's happening with MVA and tourism in general," he said, adding that the committee is glad to forge a working relationship with the tourism agency.

## CUC

From Page 1

and wastewater fees schedule.

Other proposals will increase the inspection fee from \$30 to \$90; the meter test fee from \$30 to \$75 for single phase and to \$110 for three-phase.

A new fee is the investigation fee, amounting to \$210.

The petition before CPUC also seeks to lower reconnection at meter for residential from \$150 to \$60. But for non-residential customers, reconnection at meter will go up from the existing \$150 to \$200.

For the unauthorized electric connections, the proposed fine is \$550.

Other recommended fees include \$95 for new service (meter change out fee); new service electric for single phase, \$450; and new service electric for three-phase, \$800.

These and other schedules for non-rate electric fees will be among the matters the CPUC will take up when it conducts hearings beginning next week.

Besides these new fees, CUC remains firm in its proposal to adjust the electric base rate. Under its amended proposal, from the monthly customer charge of \$7.69 for average residential customers, the recommended new base rate is \$9.27.

The proposed adjustments for other customer classes

are indicated in the rate petition before CPUC.

### Water, wastewater fees

According to CUC, it wants to increase the non-rate water and wastewater fees because these fees are currently extra costs to the agency and are not included in the base rate.

Besides the proposed increase in late charge from 1 percent of past due to 10 percent of past due, the following fee schedule is also recommended: increase new tap inspection fee for wastewater from \$50 to \$125; disconnection fee for wastewater, \$40; wastewater tipping fee, \$80; backflow device inspection fee, \$100; installation inspection fee, \$170; biannual inspection fee, \$60; remediation fee, \$110.

For the non-rate water schedule, the new fees being eyed include: an inspection fee of \$90; increasing the investigation fee from \$40 to \$210; a meter test fee, \$95; disconnection fee, \$45; and unauthorized water connection, \$550; among other proposals.

According to CUC, some customers require excessive services that are then subsidized by other ratepayers. CUC believes that it is fairer for its customers to pay for the services they actually use, so that customers who use less service pay less.

The CPUC is slated to begin its rate hearing on Monday, Dec. 9.

## HEALTH

From Page 1

get everybody in government under one program so we can spread the cost on a bigger and wider base," Inos said.

He said there are many things to consider: contract terms, increased premiums, deductibles, preexisting conditions consideration, the type of services covered.

House Speaker Joseph DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) separately said that based on information provided at the meeting with the governor, if Aetna were to rebid, "they would charge us significantly more than what they are charging now."

ing now."

"The administration is negotiating and looking at all the different options. They are consulting right now with the various bidders on what could be the options," he said.

On Nov. 6, administration officials met with health insurance providers to discuss the current request for proposal for the provision of healthcare insurance benefits starting Jan. 1, 2014.

The anticipated increase comes months after Aetna renewed for year 2013 its health insurance agreement with the Retirement Fund, with some 18 percent reduction in premiums.



# Visiting Chinese teacher sues eight CBP officers

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A visiting Chinese teacher is suing eight Customs & Border Protection Service officers in federal court for allegedly denying her entry to Saipan on suspicion that she was pregnant. She claims that she was handcuffed, her face slammed against the wall, and placed in isolation for 22 hours.

Yu Min Zhao, through counsel Samuel I. Mok, said her husband, Jian Li, was questioned first that same day by a CBP officer and was admitted under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program without incident.

Zhao, 32, is suing CBP supervisory employee Dennis Jacobs and seven other unnamed CBP officers for violation of equal protection of the Fifth Amendment, excessive force in violation of the Fourth Amendment, and conspiracy to violate Fourth and Fifth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

Zhao asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to stop the CBP officers and their agents and employees from violating her Fifth Amendment right to equal protection by prohibiting racial and gender discrimination from being practiced against non-citizen Chinese females of child-bearing age who are pregnant or suspected of being pregnant.

The plaintiff sought a judgment declaring that the CBP officers violated her rights under the Fifth Amendment by targeting her for detention, harassment, interrogation, assault and arrest as well as denying her entry under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

Zhao demanded unspecified amount of damages, court costs,

expenses, and attorneys' fees.

Mok stated in the complaint that Zhao, a school teacher from China, wanted to visit Saipan with her husband, Jian Li, as a tourist for one week of vacation.

Mok said that Zhao does not have a criminal record, has never been arrested, and has never previously overstayed any prior immigration visas or grants of parole.

According to Mok's statement of events, the incident happened on Oct. 18, 2013,

» **On suspicion of being pregnant, tourist says she was denied entry, handcuffed, placed in isolation for 22 hours**  
» **CBP officer allegedly mistook her beach dress for maternity skirt**

at 3:10am, soon after Zhao and her husband arrived at the Saipan International Airport from Beijing via a China Eastern Airlines charter flight. Zhao and her husband proceeded to immigration where they were questioned by a CBP officer at Window No. 5.

Zhao's husband was questioned first and, after a series of routine questions, was admitted by a CBP officer under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

When it was Zhao's turn, the same CBP officer allegedly immediately asked her, "How many months are you pregnant?", without asking any of the routine questions posed to her husband. Zhao was then referred to a second CBP officer at Window No. 8 for further questioning and inspection.

At Window No. 8, a CBP

officer asked her why she was visiting Saipan, for which she responded "tourism." The officer then accused her of being several months pregnant and ordered her to open her bag for further inspection.

At one point, a CBP officer found a large beach dress and asked her, "Is this dress for pregnancy wearing?"

Despite Zhao's explanation that it was meant to be worn at the beach, a female CBP officer placed the beach dress against the plaintiff's body to compare the extent of the size difference and reiterated the other officer's accusation that she was pregnant by claiming that it was a "maternity skirt."

The female officer then asked if Zhao was two or three months pregnant.

Mok said CBP officer Jacobs claimed that the reason why Zhao was denied entry was because she had been previously denied a visa to the U.S. twice and not because she was Chinese and purportedly pregnant.

Mok said Jacobs' explanation was simply a pretext for the racist and sexist conduct of himself as well as his colleagues, given that Zhao's husband had been granted admission even though he too had been previously denied a visa twice and was traveling with the plaintiff at the same time.

After being denied entry, Mok said, Zhao was handcuffed and placed in a detention room for 22 hours where she was denied access to communication with anyone, including her husband.

Mok said that during this period, Zhao was subjected to

physical and verbal abuse by CBP officers.

The lawyer said Zhao was also denied access to an attorney by the CBP officers despite her repeated requests for legal counsel, even though she was in custody, subject to interrogation, and handcuffed.

In fact, Mok said, Jacobs and a CBP officer explicitly told Zhao that she did not have any rights, let alone the right to speak to an attorney, since she was an alien.

Over the next several hours, Zhao was repeatedly asked to sign a voluntary departure form written in English that was allegedly never explained to her in Chinese.

A CBP officer then allegedly tried to trick and/or coerce her into signing an English language document that stated she "voluntarily consented" to return to China by refusing to explain what the document meant or providing a Chinese translation.

Mok said the CBP officer threatened to have Zhao's husband arrested and deported if she continued to refuse to sign, even though her husband had already been granted admission by CBP for 10 days.

Out of her frustration at her helplessness, Zhao began screaming for help whenever the door to her detention room was opened.

In retaliation for her screams, seven CBP officers came into the detention room and removed articles of clothing from her body as well as her personal items as punishment for her perceived "lack of cooperation."

The seven CPB officers, Mok said, gang tackled Zhao in her cell and forcibly hand-

cuffed her hands behind her back by shoving her face first against a wall and violently twisting her hands behind her back, merely because she refused to get fingerprinted as a form of protest of the abuse she was suffering.

Mok said three CBP officers stormed into the detention cell and rushed to Zhao. One officer allegedly kicked apart plaintiff's legs and slammed her face against the wall.

A second officer pushed her shoulders forward so that her face remained pressed to the wall, while another officer twisted her hands behind her

back and applied handcuffs.

Mok said Zhao was then left crying in her cell for about an hour with her hands painfully handcuffed behind her back without being given any medical attention or explanation as to why this was happening to her.

Eventually, the lawyer said, Zhao signed the English language document presented to her even though it was never explained or translated into Chinese.

To date, Mok said, Zhao still does not know what form she signed as it was never translated to her in Chinese and she was never given a copy.

## Guam lawmakers push affordable sea transportation between Guam, CNMI

**HAGÅTÑA, Guam**—Senators Tina Muna Barnes, Rory Respicio, and Speaker Won Pat recently introduced Resolution 279-32 that promotes an affordable alternative regional transportation between Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by means of a commuter and cargo vessel service.

Muna Barnes indicated that meetings between herself and Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, as well as discussion held last month during the Mariana Islands Legislatures Association inaugural session in Guam, pushed this idea to the forefront.

"The addition of a ferry or similar commuter vessel based sea route between the islands

will be especially beneficial to the promotion of trade between Guam and the Island of Rota and expand the tourism market in both islands," said Muna-Barnes.

Respicio, for his part, stressed the need for a cost-effective alternative to air cargo.

"The addition of a commuter and cargo vessel service will provide farmers from Guam and the CNMI to be able to provide produce to both markets at better, more affordable rates," Respicio said.

Won Pat stated that this resolution is yet another step toward greater cooperation between Guam and the CNMI for our mutual benefit and moves us closer to "One Marianas." (PR)

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Saipan chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting is on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013 at Saipan World Resort Royal Taga Hall. Luncheon begins at 11:30am, and the meeting agenda starts at noon.

Special guests in attendance are students from public and private schools taking part in the Annual Student Career Exploration Day and their sponsored company representatives.

Guest's speakers are Paul Miura, the 2013 Teacher of the Year, and Dr. David Longanecker, president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

Luncheon is \$20 for SCC members and \$30 for guests, non-members and the general public. Reservations are accepted at the Chamber office by calling 233-7150, or emailing coordinator@saipan-cham-

ber.com. (SCC)

#### John Gonzales LIVE schedule today

Today's John Gonzales LIVE will feature two back-to-back shows, with replays on Monday, Dec. 9, and Tuesday, Dec. 10. The show also rebroadcasts on www.betelnutradio.com.

From 6:30pm to 7:30pm, the Northern Marianas Descent Corp. will discuss federal immigration and indigenous rights.

From 7:30pm to 8:30pm, the Division of Environmental Quality and Department of Public Lands will discuss Brownfields cleanup and restoration of contaminated public lands for public reuse/settlement.

To participate in the discussions, e-mail johngonzaleslive@gmail.com, text (670-285-META or 6382), or call 287-9413, courtesy of IT&E, Life In Motion. (PR)



# GRAND OPENING

Welcome to the newest fun place on the island.





MIDDLE ROAD





## OPEN: MONDAY - SUNDAY • 10AM - 10PM



# Govt exploring options amid rising health insurance costs

The Commonwealth government is grappling with increased health insurance costs and limited revenues as it attempts to provide employees and retirees health insurance for fiscal year 2014.

The CNMI government's health insurance cost for fiscal year 2013 was approximately \$18 million, while initial cost estimates for fiscal year 2014 increased by 43 percent to approximately \$25 million. The CNMI cannot afford this increase and must figure out a way to restructure the program to continue to provide affordable health insurance benefits.

A review of the government's health care costs indicates the increase is predominantly driven by the cost of insuring retirees. The \$18 million in total cost can

be separated into \$14 million in costs for retirees and \$4 million for all active employees who are enrolled. The health insurance policy requires the government to pay half of the premium and employees and retirees pay the other half.

The current cost for a single employee under the current plan is \$178.64 a month, which would face an increase of \$78.62 for a total of \$255.46 per month. Similarly, a family with two dependents paying \$571.62 a month would see a \$245.80 increase to \$817.42 per month for continuing coverage. The CNMI has to carefully examine the cost structure of the current insurance plan. The objective is to meet the essential health care needs of our community and

eliminate or curtail secondary benefits. The government has to develop a health care insurance model that is specifically structured to the people's needs essential needs.

The problem of rising health insurance costs is further complicated by the fact that many active employees are choosing not to participate in the government-sponsored health care program. As total costs for the program increases, there is a corresponding increase in the premium the employee must pay. Because active employees require less medical care, they can often find alternatives to the government-sponsored health insurance program that are less costly, even if the government pays for half of their premiums.

As active employees leave the government-sponsored health insurance program, it causes a shift in the health insurance population to a larger percentage of retirees, who are more costly to insure but who cannot afford these ever increasing costs.

In reviewing the various health care insurance models, one proposal being considered is to limit health care benefits to services provided in the CNMI, Guam, and the Philippines or select U.S. providers. Cost data shows that health care services in the CNMI, Guam, and the Philippines are significantly lower than those provided in the mainland United States. In examining this issue, if we can limit where care is provided and still meet the medical needs of

the majority of participants, we can cut overall costs. This is a delicate balance as there are CNMI retirees spread out all over the world, although the vast majority are in the CNMI. The latest health care insurance data indicates that there are a total of 2,267 enrollees, 2,059 of which are located in the Commonwealth and 208 of which are spread throughout the world.

The latest health care insurance proposals submitted to the government shows the cost of providing health insurance coverage to the 208 participants living outside the Commonwealth presents a significant cost that is driving rate increases. One proposal that is being considered by the government is to require persons living in the U.S. mainland

to enroll in the U.S.-sponsored health care exchange programs because they would be more affordable to retirees. None of the proposals submitted provides for a continuation of the current benefits at the same rates. All of the proposals call for cost increases and reduced benefits. The CNMI will work to develop a health insurance model that provides essential services to all at an affordable rate and this is almost an impossible goal. Key officials are looking at different models, but they all will require changes in the current system. Due to the pending deadline for expiration of the current health insurance plan, the Government is intending to make a decision at the end of this week. **(Office of the Governor)**

## Rotary's *daok* seedling in Kagman stolen



Rotary district governor Isako Funaki, left, and Rotary Club of Saipan president Laila Y. Boyer shovel dirt on the *daok* seedling they planted as part of the groundbreaking ceremony of the club's 60,000 Rotary Healthy Living Family Park project in Kagman last Nov. 7. **MARK RABAGO**

The *daok* seedling the Rotary Club of Saipan planted on Nov. 7 as part of its groundbreaking of its children's park project in Kagman has been stolen.

Rotary Club president Laila Y. Boyer told Rotary members the theft of the seedling during the club's weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

"A week ago past president Pete Schilling noticed that the seedling was gone. He has been going to the Kagman Community Center every two weeks to water the tree. One day last

week the whole thing was gone—the tree [seedling], the rebar. We would just like to inform the community that these native plants are available at the Division of Agriculture's For-

estry program for free."

Boyer appealed to the community to keep the seedling where it's planted once the Rotary Club replaces it.

"It was really symbolic for us because we had our district governor assist us in planting the tree. It is something that we wanted her to come back one day and see it. We're going to replace and I want to appeal to the community to keep in mind when we do replace it, we would like it to remain there and grow and that they can get these trees at the local department."

Schilling said he has no idea who took the seedling. "It is anyone's guess as to who or why anyone would take the *daok* we planted. All I can tell you is that after planting and watering it twice, on the third visit, the tree

was gone and so was the rebar holding it upright."

The local Rotary Club broke ground on its \$60,000 Rotary Healthy Living Family Park project early last month in the presence of Rotary district governor Isako Funaki and other dignitaries from Japan.

The civic group planted the *daok* seedling as part of the groundbreaking.

Boyer said the tree specie is abundant on the island and is known for its shading capability. She said they also chose to plant a *daok* seedling because its wood is hard and is of excellent quality and is used to make boats, timber, carabao carts, and large canoes. Its leaves can also be soaked in water and used as a remedy for sore eyes and is also good for the skin as a moisturizer. **(Mark Rabago)**


## Guam senator seeks help for Belauan brothers and sisters

**GUAM**—Guam Sen. Michael F.Q. San Nicolas announced yesterday that his office will be accepting donations to aid in the relief efforts for residents of the Republic of Belau affected by Typhoon Haiyan. Nearly a month ago, the storm passed through Micronesia and caused severe damage to parts of Belau, particularly the northern state of Kyangel, before intensifying into a Supertyphoon and causing great devastation in the Philippines. According to the Belau Bureau of Public Health, there were no reported deaths as a result of the storm. However, many homes were destroyed or badly

damaged.

"Our brothers and sisters in Belau have also suffered from the recent storm that devastated the Philippines," said San Nicolas. "While mobilizing to help our Filipino brothers and sisters, we need to also do what we can to extend help to our neighbors in Belau."

Any donations, monetary or otherwise, may be dropped to the Office of Senator San Nicolas, located in the main Legislature building in Hagatna. San Nicolas will be working with the Belau Consul General's Office to ensure that the aid gets to where it is most needed. **(PR)**



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs  
Office of the Secretary  
Call Box 10007  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950  
Tel. (670) 664-2587 • Fax. (670) 664-2547

## PUBLIC NOTICE


Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Division of Historic Preservation Office under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs hereby give notice that a regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board will be held on December 4, 2013 at 10:00 am and on December 5, 2013 at 9:00 am on the island of Tinian, Office of the Mayor Conference Room.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

### AGENDA

- I PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes
- II PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III REPORTS**
  1. Secretary's Report
  2. Field Reports (Saipan/Tinian/Rota)
  3. Legal Counsel's Report – Public Law 3-39 Amendments
- IV OLD BUSINESS**
  1. Regional Archaeologist (Fr. Hezel) Position
  2. Historian Position
  3. Section 106 Trainings
  4. Latte Stone Relocation Request (Mayor of Rota)
  5. Divert 106 Correspondence
  6. Published and Unpublished Reports (Requested by Dr. Rechebei)
  7. Budget 2010, 2011, 2012
  8. Discussion of Signage/Fencing on Established Historical Sites (Rota Water Cave)
  9. Projects as per Fr. Fran Hezel (Publication, Filming/PBS)
  10. Policy and Procedures / Bylaws (NPS, HPO)
- V NEW BUSINESS**
- VI OTHER MATTERS**
- VII ADJOURNMENT**

/s/ Tom Glenn A. Quitugua  
Chairman of the Board



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

### INVITATION TO BID

#### ITB NO.: ITB 14-DCCA/AGING-025

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2013**  
**TIME: 10:00 A.M.**


**"CONGREGATE MEAL AND HOME MEAL DELIVERY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS - OFFICE ON AGING"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ LAURA T. OGUMORO  
SECRETARY OF DC&A

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**CNMI JUDICIAL BRANCH**

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### RFP14-JUDICIARY-01

**SUBMISSION DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME**

**"TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE CNMI JUDICIAL BRANCH-GUMA HUSTISIAJIMW AL A WEE WE/HOUSE OF JUSTICE"**

THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2013 AT 10:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA CONFERENCE ROOM. ANY QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES SHALL BE DIRECTED TO MR. MICHAEL VILLACRUSIS, SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR AT (670) 236-9800 OR BY FAX TO (670) 236-9702 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013**. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI JUDICIARY. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI JUDICIARY AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE PROPOSER.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO  
Chief Justice

/s/ JUAN DIEGO TENORIO  
Budget and Finance Director  
Judiciary Procurement Officer



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

### INVITATION TO BID

#### ITB NO.: ITB 14-DCCA/ARTS-016

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2013** **TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

**"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DCCA/COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE - ROTA BRANCH"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).**

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ LAURA T. OGUMORO  
DCCA SECRETARY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S



# Dela Cruz pushes for road use tax on Tinian

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz urged Rep. Trenton Conner yesterday to reintroduce his local bill to create use tax to help maintain the roads and historic sites on Tinian’s military-leased lands.

Dela Cruz pointed out that the roads within the leaseback area are now CNMI property and the government has a responsibility to maintain them. And, although the roads within the Exclusive Military Use Zone still belong to the Navy, Tinian must maintain them because they are the access roads to Tinian’s No. 1 tourist attraction, the North Field Historic Landmark.

“These roads are the arteries that pulse through Tinian’s tourism industry,” wrote the mayor. “Unfortunately, our request for funding in this year’s CNMI budget failed.”

## Court of Appeals to open en banc proceedings to Internet viewing

**SAN FRANCISCO**—Internet users will soon have a seat in the courtroom when exceptionally important cases are argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The nation’s busiest federal appellate court plans to provide live video streaming of its en banc proceedings, beginning with five cases scheduled for oral arguments Dec. 9-11, 2013, in the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco.

Effective Dec. 9, Internet users will find links to the video streams by visiting [www.ca9.uscourts.gov](http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov) and clicking on the link labeled “En Banc Video Streaming.”

It is believed to be the first time a federal appellate court will use its technology to deliver live video of a proceeding over the Internet. Broadcast and cable news networks have previously provided live coverage of Ninth Circuit court proceedings, including Internet viewing.

“The Ninth Circuit has a long history of using advances in technology to make the court more accessible and transparent,” said Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Alex Kozinski. “Video streaming is a way to open the court’s doors even wider so that more people can see and hear what transpires in the courtroom, particularly in regard to some of our most important cases.”

An en banc court is used to resolve intra-circuit conflicts of law and other legal questions considered to be of exceptional importance. On average, only about 20 cases receive en banc review each year. Rather than a three-judge appellate panel, an en banc court consists of the chief judge of the circuit and 10 judges drawn at random.

En banc proceedings are held quarterly, usually in the Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco and the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena, California. Since 2010, the court has video streamed en banc proceedings to all of its courthouses. Thus, an en banc court convened in Pasadena can be observed at the San Francisco courthouse, the William K. Nakamura U.S. Courthouse in Seattle and the Pioneer Courthouse in Portland, Oregon.

Beginning with this month’s docket, anyone with a sufficiently fast Internet connection will be able to watch en banc proceedings at home, work or elsewhere. Likely audiences include lawyers, parties to cases, law school students and faculty, news media, and the general public. The court is working with an outside provider to ensure sufficient bandwidth is available for satisfactory viewing.

Considered a leader in the use of technology to increase public access, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is one of two federal appellate courts to allow the news media to use cameras in the courtroom. Since the early 1990s, Ninth Circuit appellate panels have granted 378 media requests for still and video photography of often high-profile cases.

Since 2003, the court has been using its own technology to provide public access to digital audio recordings of all oral arguments heard at all locations on a next-day basis. Video recording capability was later added. Today, all 11 courtrooms in the four Ninth Circuit courthouses are video equipped. Three courtrooms—one each in San Francisco, Pasadena and Portland—are equipped with high-definition video cameras.

Digital files containing audio and video recordings of court proceedings are available online at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/media/>.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by executive branch agencies and federal trial courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court normally meets monthly in Seattle, San Francisco and Pasadena, California; every other month in Portland, Oregon; three times per year in Honolulu, Hawaii; and twice a year in Anchorage, Alaska. A complete schedule of cases is available online at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov>.

**(U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit)**

## Naval Base Guam to conduct tsunami exercise


**SANTA RITA, Guam**—Naval Base Guam will conduct a tsunami exercise at the installation on Dec. 12.

The exercise will allow NBG and its tenant commands to exercise command and control capabilities in response to such a natural disaster and satisfy internal reporting and training requirements. The exercise will run from approximately 8am to 1pm.


Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see and hear increased activity associated with the exercise.

NBG housing residents on main base are advised to prepare for increased traffic from 10am to 1pm and are advised to shelter in place during the duration of the exercise.

NBG personnel and residents can track updates on the NBG Facebook and Twitter pages at [facebook.com/USNavalBaseGuam](https://facebook.com/USNavalBaseGuam) or [twitter.com/nbgum](https://twitter.com/nbgum) or call the NBG information hotline at 339-INFO (4636). **(PR)**



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Director



**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**CUC-IFB-14-004**

**AIRPORT ROAD RESTORATION FOR SAN VICENTE SERVICE AREA  
EXTENSION PROJECT, SAIPAN**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Airport Road Restoration for San Vicente Service Area Extension Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

*This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).*

This work consists of excavation of flowable fill, and installation of asphalt concrete to replace pavement areas cut by CUC to install the San Vicente Service Area Extension Waterline project. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and the Department of Public Works. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **30 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) on an electronic disk file; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **November 27, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) Original and Seven (7) Hard Copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “Airport Road Restoration for San Vicente Service Area Extension Project” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 12, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 2, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, via email – [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email [yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org](mailto:yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org) and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – via email [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**CHARLES WARREN**  
Acting Executive Director



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS**



**PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT**

This is to inform the general public that the Division of Youth Services under the auspices of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be conducting a public hearing on the Community Services Block Grant and the Social Services Block Grant state plans on the following dates/time:

ISLAND	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Saipan	December 16, 2013	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Multi-Purpose Center
Rota	December 17, 2013	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Tinian Youth Center
Tinian	December 18, 2013	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Mayor’s Office

**Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**  
The Community Services Block Grant aims to support activities designed to assist low-income families and individuals to remove obstacles that block self-sufficiency; secure and retain meaningful employment; attain adequate education; obtain adequate housing; improve referral process for emergency assistance; achieve greater participation in community activities; and support youth development programs. An electronic copy of the CSBG state plan may be viewed at the link below.  
  
<http://gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/131112-CSBG-STATE-PLAN-2014.pdf>

**Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)**  
The basic programs that would be implemented under the Social Services Block Grant Consolidation for the CNMI are based on achieving the following goals: Self-Support; Self-Sufficiency; Protective Services; Preventing or Reducing Inappropriate Institutional Care; and Securing Other forms of Care. An electronic copy of the SSBG state plan may be viewed at the link below.  
  
<http://gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/131029-FINAL-DRAFT-SSBG-STATE-PLAN-2014.pdf>

Copies for the above state plans may also be picked up at the DYS Office of the Administrator, House #1262, in Capitol Hill (located right across the Legislature). For more information, or to submit written comments, you may contact 664/2550/2551/2591/2592 or e-mail Mrs. Rita Castro, DYS Grant Writer at [sorappi3@gmail.com](mailto:sorappi3@gmail.com) or Ms. Vivian Sablan, DYS Administrator at [vtsablan@gmail.com](mailto:vtsablan@gmail.com).



# Over 200 attend Hyatt anniversary

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Nobody throws a party like Hyatt Regency Saipan. This was evident Monday night when the islands' only international brand name hotel celebrated its 33rd anniversary.

With black and gold the dominant hues inside the cavernous SandCastle Theater, a total of 203 well-heeled guests—well above the expected 160—poneyed up the \$100 per plate fee for admission.

By all accounts, it was a well-spent Benjamin Franklin note as guests not only got to savor a sumptuous seven-course meal meticulously prepared by Hyatt executive chef Gabrielle Colombo and his team but also enjoyed an enthralling magic show by SandCastle's award-winning magicians Chris Zubrick and Ryan Makowski, with their lovely assistant Jessica.

Guests, which also included officials from the travel and hotel industry and Hyatt partners, also got to bid on several items and join a raffle for, among others, lunch and dinners buffets, massage sessions, hotel stays, and the likes.

In-house music for the evening was provided by Hyatt's resident band, Mario and Friends, while Brad Ruszala served as the evening's host.

## Heart of Gold benefits MINA

Hyatt's 33rd anniversary party was also held for a good cause, as proceeds from the event will be donated to the non-profit environment group Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

"Tonight the Heart of Gold concept is being revived after 20 years. Twenty years ago, Hyatt Regency Saipan held the



Hyatt wait staff, from left, Ernie Garcia, Sally Delos Santos, and Arnie Casaclang pose with Hyatt human resources director Josephine Mesta.

Heart of Gold fundraiser with the American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter as the beneficiary. Tonight we do the same with the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance," said Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa, who's been with the landmark Gapan site the past five years and five months.

"On behalf of the leadership team of Hyatt Regency Saipan, I would like to express my many thanks for the over-

whelming support toward our 33rd anniversary celebration to benefit MINA. We look forward to many more years of authentic hospitality in the CNMI! I would also like to say thank you to all of you and thank you to all associates and travel agents of Japan, Korea, China, and Russia. Without your support, Hyatt Regency Saipan wouldn't be here today," he added.

MINA board chair Frankie Eliptico said the money donated

by Hyatt will help the group sustain its many projects, including mitigation efforts to keep trash away from the islands' waters and an ambitious plan to ban the use of plastic bags by 2015.

## Staff honored

Hyatt also took time to honor three of its wait staff who were present the last time the hotel held its Heart of Gold signature fundraising event in 1993.

Sally Delos Santos, Ernie Garcia, and Arnie Casaclang were invited on stage and were recognized for more than 20 years of service to the hotel.

In an interview, Garcia said that Hyatt Regency Saipan has undergone a lot of changes since 1993 but one constant is Hyatt's high standard of customer service.

For her part, Delos Santos said it's been a privilege to work for Hyatt and she has enjoyed the more than 20 years she has worked for the hotel chain.

Casaclang, meanwhile, regards Hyatt as part of his extended family. He also likes the way the hotel chain always trains people to improve and get better.

Hyatt human resources director Josephine Mesta, who was also present during the inaugural Heart of Gold two decades ago, seconded her staff's sentiments.

"I couldn't also imagine working here for the past 20 years. It's a place where I finally found my passion. Like them, this is home for me and we've really made a pretty good family here at Hyatt."

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### December 4, 2005

#### Japanese tourist arrivals fall 29 pct.

Tourist arrivals from Japan further slid down registering a 29-percent drop in November, a month after Japan Airlines had totally terminated its flights to the CNMI. Statistics from the Marianas Visitors Authority showed there were only 21,602 Japanese who visited the Commonwealth last month. During the same month last year, there were 30,454 Japanese visitors. Authorities earlier projected that tourist arrivals from Japan would dramatically drop in view of JAL's pullout from the CNMI on Oct. 4. JAL, which provided direct flights to Saipan from Tokyo and Osaka, used to bring some 155,000 passengers from Japan a year.

#### Retired teacher ventures into aquaculture

Since June this year, Gus Flores has been busy with his newly discovered hobby: growing tilapia right in the backyard of his home in Fina Sisu. "This is my first time to do this. I'm quite excited," said Flores, a retired teacher from William S. Reyes Elementary School. After more than two decades in the teaching profession, Flores retired in 1995, giving him more time to do what he has been wanting to do: spend more time at his farm. Retirement years for him have been truly easy and comfortable, but he discovered that he is happier whenever he engages in projects.

### December 4, 2006

#### Villagomez admits hard time in filling up CUC board

Acting governor Timothy P. Villagomez said the administration has been having a hard time filling up the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s advisory board. Villagomez said they are putting in names for the CUC board, but some of their nominees rejected the appointment. "The Mayor of Tinian submitted a nomination and at the same time while we were doing together with the Public Utilities Commission...the PUC board as well. Some wanted to be in the PUC board, no one in the advisory board," the acting governor told Saipan Tribune in an interview. Villagomez said they have the names and everything and that they just hope that people are going to accept the position.

#### Senate wants AG to stand in for PUC

The Senate wants the attorney general to act as the Public Utilities Commission while the new regulatory agency is being formed. The Upper House late last week passed Senate Bill 15-65, which proposes to allow the attorney general to fulfill some of the functions of the PUC until the first three commissioners have been appointed and confirmed. According to the bill, the attorney general may temporarily perform the duties of the former Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission, which was abolished with the PUC Act was enacted.

### December 4, 2007

#### Number of NCLEX takers plummet

Since Filipino nurses began taking the National Council Licensure Examination in their home country in August this year, the CNMI's share in the NCLEX market has dropped drastically to 50 percent or even less. According to Dianne Villagomez of Pearson Professional Center, which administers the NCLEX on Saipan, the number of Filipino nurses who take the test on the island is down to about half the number they used to get. "It is less but we're still hoping it will pick up soon," she said yesterday.

#### HUD questions CNMI's bidding preference law

A federal agency has raised concern that a CNMI statute granting bidding preference to local businesses is discriminatory and may jeopardize the release of federal aid to the local government. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development notes that its procurement regulations require grant recipients to consider price in awarding contracts. But under Public Law 15-95, the CNMI government can legally choose a U.S. citizen-owned bidder over a non-U.S. citizen, regardless of amount. This preference applies to contracts amounting to \$500,000 or less. "I am reading the law to mean that if a U.S. citizen-owned business bids \$400,000 on a contract and a non-U.S. citizen-owned business bids \$300,000 on a contract and both businesses are determined to be equally qualified in procurement process, the CNMI will award the \$400,000 bid," noted Rebecca Borja, community planning and development representative at the HUD-Hawaii office.



Mariana Islands Nature Alliance board chair Frankie Eliptico thanks Hyatt Regency Saipan for choosing the non-profit environmental group as beneficiary of the hotel's 33rd anniversary and Heart of Gold event Monday night at SandCastle Theater. Looking on is the evening's host Brad Ruszala.



The Marianas Tourism Education Council wrapped up its annual fall outreach to elementary school students with a visit to Garapan Elementary School last Monday, Nov. 25.

This school year, MTEC has taken its message of the importance of tourism to hundreds of students at eight elementary schools, with plans to continue outreach to junior and senior high schools in the spring.

"The children of today are the future of the Northern Mariana Islands tourism industry, and MTEC is pleased to be at the forefront of reaching out to help prepare them by giving them information about jobs in the tourism and hospitality industry," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "It's encouraging to see the sophistication of their understanding of the industry grow, especially for those students who we have spoken with before. We have more MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs now, too, so we can see that they're getting the message."

This year MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority have visited Koblerville, Tanapag, San Vicente, Dandan, San Antonio, W.S.R., and Garapan elementary schools.

The MTEC presentation covers visitor profiles, how tourism helps the Northern Marianas, jobs in tourism, and how students can help support the industry. This year, MTEC has emphasized potential careers in the industry with several guest presenters: Hyatt Regency Saipan chef de partie Benjamin Babauta Jr.; DFS Saipan product sales manager Jamika Reyes; Delta Air Lines' Chris



PHOTOS BY MTEC

Community projects specialist Frank Tudela of the Marianas Visitors Authority works the crowd at Koblerville Elementary School during the quiz portion of a presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council on Sept. 27, 2013.

## MTEC visits eight elementary schools

Concepcion; craftsman Michael Finey; and Pacific Islands Club Saipan's finance manager See Cabrera, operations and events manager Dennis Tababa, front desk supervisor Arlette Park, and restaurant manager Rommel Bartolo. (MTEC)



Larry Lee of the Marianas Tourism Education Council listens to students from Tanapag Elementary School during an educational presentation on tourism on Sept. 30, 2013.



Students from Garapan Elementary School who explained how tourism helps the Northern Marianas and answered other questions won prizes during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council on Nov. 25, 2013.



Chairman Vicky Benavente of the Marianas Tourism Education Council, right, leads the educational presentation at Dandan Elementary School on Oct. 10, 2013. Also pictured is Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas, standing.



Students at Kagman Elementary School who correctly answered questions poised by the Marianas Tourism Education Council won prizes on Oct. 4, 2013.



Carver Michael Finey shared about his part-time job in tourism with students of Garapan Elementary School on Nov. 25, 2013, as part of a presentation by the Marianas Tourism Education Council.



As part of a presentation by the Marianas Tourism Education Council, front desk supervisor Arlette Park shares about her job on tourism with students of San Vicente Elementary School on Oct. 8, 2013.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 241Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Egyptian military targets peaceful protesters

The Arab Spring swept across the Middle East in 2011 and with astonishing swiftness sent dictators packing. Chief among them: Egypt's Hosni Mubarak.

Vast crowds of demonstrators filled Cairo's Tahrir Square day after day until Mubarak had no choice but to leave.

But one democratic election and one Muslim Brotherhood president later, military rulers are again tightening their grip on Cairo: Egypt's military-backed government has issued a law that effectively bans gatherings of more than 10 people without government approval, The New York Times reports.

The new law requires demonstrators to notify the authorities three days before any protest. It specifically bans demonstrations at places of worship. That's an attempt to blunt the marches and protests that often launch after Friday services at mosques. Those who defy the law face jail time or hefty fines.

Egyptian Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi said that "the right to protest is a human right" but those "practicing this right must be met with a sense of responsibility so it won't damage security or terrorize or assault establishments."

A few days after the new law was announced, a determined band including some of Egypt's most prominent human rights activists tested it by mounting a peaceful protest without prior government approval.

Result: Riot police broke out their batons and beat protesters. The police groped women demonstrators. At least 60 people were detained. This was ugly. How were a few dozen human rights protesters damaging security or terrorizing anyone?

Egypt's generals have defended their crackdown by explaining, correctly, that Muslim Brotherhood hard-liners threatening violent jihad are a threat to Egypt's security. The Brotherhood's Islamists demand the return of democratically elected President Mohammed Morsi. Morsi faces trial on murder charges that could bring the death penalty.

But this new law restricting free assembly, and the military's apparent intent to enforce it, is a vast government overreach.

One thing the U.S. and its allies have learned since the Arab Spring ignited: The West doesn't have much sway over events in Egypt, despite sending many millions of dollars in aid.

Egypt's generals know that the U.S. has much at stake in that country's security—in its effort to protect its borders and to maintain its peace commitments with Israel. Granted, that shouldn't change. The U.S. needs a strong ally in Egypt.

But the U.S. still can deploy its diplomatic wherewithal to encourage moderation. In other words, friends don't let friends rule badly.

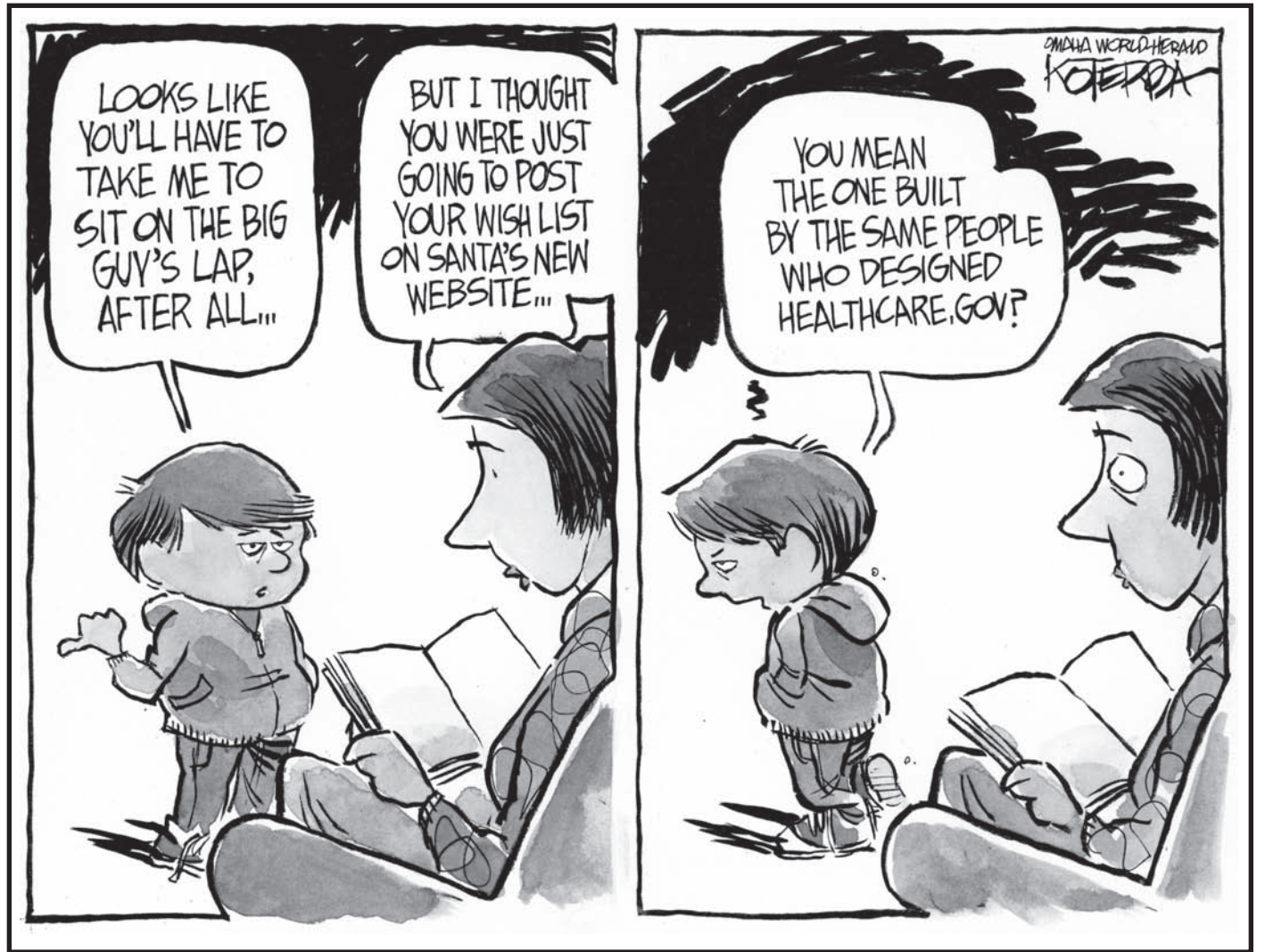
U.S. officials can keep reminding the generals that we've all seen this movie before, and we know how it ends. Mubarak was invincible, until, suddenly, he slunk off the world stage, disgraced and defeated.

The same fate could await the current military rulers, if they continue on their repressive path.

The U.S. doesn't have the power to change Egypt's laws or the people who make them. That power is vested in Egypt's citizens, millions of them, seeking freedom, democracy, fairness.

They toppled one dictatorship. They can topple another.

©2013 Chicago Tribune



## East Bay heroes with abilities!

By THOMAS M. THORNBURGH  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

About a month ago, you may have heard a story about a girl who was saved from drowning at the beach by some guys. Well, I was lucky enough to see the whole ordeal as it went down.

It was a warm and sunny Saturday, and I was called to the beach to swim with my pale-skinned buddies who all have disabilities. One of them has a traumatic brain injury, one with emotional trauma, and yet another with a spinal injury that almost left him paralyzed from the neck down.

It is also, however, the usual tendency that beer finds its way naturally into activities with the brothers. By the way, alcoholism is also a protected disability only when you are actively seeking out rehabilitation.

Well, being the heroes that they are, when I told them I was writing this piece, they asked that their names remain anonymous, so let's call them Bucky, Uno Mamis, and Yon-Mon. The beach is on the east side of the island so that gives you an idea of the cliffy terrain that exists on that side of Saipan.

I was trying to find my way to them to celebrate a birthday for one of them who was turning 47. While searching, I ran into a police vehicle with a policeman who asked if I knew who had made a "distress" call to 911. I could not answer that question, so I just told him that I was looking for my friends but that I was having a hard time finding them. He then chose to go on further into the jungle.

Just then I got a call back from Bucky who explained that he had been helping a girl swim for the past hour and a half so that she would not drown. He had left his phone on land so he missed my call.

I told him about the cop I just met and he told me to follow the cop as he was probably going to where they were. I immediately turned around and followed the cop. We weaved and dodged potholes and punched through some foliage to a clearing where I recognized the vehicles parked. I saw the police vehicle and proceeded down to the shoreline following the policeman.

It seemed like a scene out of a Hollywood movie. The sun was just setting and I looked over a small cliff line where I saw my friends Uno Mamis, Bucky, and Yon-Mon floating by a heavyside island girl who seemed very tired as she was gripping onto a makeshift ladder on the rocks that made up the cliff line. I remember thinking this person is not going to be able to get up the 10-foot cliff without help. She was larger than any of the boys, so they could not just pick her up, plus she had been swimming in place for so long that she looked exhausted. I saw that my friends were bleeding because they had been helping her remain afloat and protecting her from the rocks by taking turns pinning themselves between her and the rocks when the

big waves came. I also thought that the water was deep enough for a shark to attack them at any moment. Also, it was twilight, and sea creatures, including sharks, like to hunt at this time.

The policeman asked for a rope, and the birthday boy, Uno Mamis, had one in his car. They brought that out and wrapped it around the girl's underarms with the help of those in the water with her. Then with help from the people up top, and the encouragement of those with her in the water, a coordinated effort ensued with folks pulling and others pushing. Her body finally got out of the water completely, but that added weight to the load and those on top could not pull her up any further. Those in the water were too low now to push her up. So for a moment we all just watched in utter amazement while holding our collective breath and hoping she did not go back down into the water.

This is when the policeman had to talk to the girl to get her to begin a last ditch effort to pull herself out with the help of those up top. She struggled, but to her credit, she clung on with both hands onto this rubber tire ladder that was fashioned by Bucky and Yon-Mon a day earlier without any supervision. She then lunged and others pulled, she began to slowly move upward again, and with continued support through words of encouragement by those around her, she continued to ease upward until she hit a lip on the cliff line. This is when others were able to hold her extended hands and with one great combined effort, she was finally pulled to safety!

We all shared a collective sigh of relief. Applause then followed momentarily. The girl made a statement to the policeman, and then she began to thank her rescuers with a genuine smile on her face.

As her rescuers, my buddies, emerged from the water, we saw just how cut and scratched up they were. I applauded them, but they, breathing heavily, just looked at me and gave me the universal sign for a cold can of beer by extending their weary hands forward, as if they had a beer already. With sheer exhaustion on their faces, they took their first drink and finally started the birthday celebration.

So, as I stood there and admired just how lucky I am to have friends that would jump into dangerous waters to save a person they did not even know, I also thought to myself that having a disability does not mean without abilities. People with disabilities can be heroes too!

Happy Thanksgiving to my buddies, The East Bay Heroes with Abilities! Saipan is a safer place because of you guys! Happy holidays everyone!

For more on disabilities, please contact the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. (NMPASI) at [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org) or call us at 235-7273 or 4; Fax us at 235-7275 or TTY at 235-7278.

Thomas M. Thornburgh is a projects specialist at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., or NMPASI.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Misery: New island norm

**R**eflection provides clarity on issues and grants us the opportunity to reset our buttons in hopes of moving forward. But this doesn't seem to be happening. We've seen families struggle to meet medical expenses of loved ones needing special attention in medical facilities outside the CNMI.

Many more are caught trying to navigate the 25-percent pension cut. Still others are slammed with what's known as "under-employment" where one has a job but falls within the federal poverty income level.

As we reset family expenses daily, we get hit with power bills that keep increasing like there's no tomorrow. Moreover, there's an announcement of shipping cost increasing; it means the costs of basic goods would also increase soon.

The combined madness and insanity in the unbridled cost of living has forced the multitude into hopelessness corner. Yes, each family is asking when would there be some tidings that the combined cost would be domesticated so it subsides into granting families some respite of strength in their meager income. No matter where you turn, most folks are trapped by the high cost of living.

The window of opportunity to begin taming the unbridled cost of living is the privatization of CUC so we quickly stop the filial purse from bleeding profusely. Families deserve the best option from their leaders. We trust they could see familial hardship through our lenses.

Bankruptcy translates into hopelessness. It annihilates meaningful opportunities. It hog-ties most people here languishing in misery land. I'm still optimistic policymakers can collectively do something most constructive to ease the misery in the villages.

### CUC's rain fire dance

We had the opportunity to rein in a power purchase that is both reliable and affordable for consumers—residential and business. But the entire calculus shifted to returning to conventional wisdom—paying whimsically more for less—when the top gun at CUC recanted on his story about the negotiated deal.

Truth: The deal was for \$70 million power purchase plus a 10-percent cut in power bills for all consumers. It isn't \$190 million erroneously repeated in poorly written news stories that ignore verification of information. Deleting truthful information isn't double

standard but substandard altogether.

Under the contract, CUC was going to purchase power from the firm delivered to it at \$.20 per kilowatt-hour. I understand the head of CUC encouraged the former governor to sign the contract because there's nothing out there that offers such inexpensive rate.

The deposition of players ought to reveal the "truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth!" I should have a field day when this unfolds.

### Must restore land tenure system

A "land tenure system" is simply the traditional way we dispose of private land. It's the system of "individual landownership" that has been in place for more than 500 years. We've never had any problems with it over the centuries.

It's important to know the history of Article 12. The genesis of this constitutional provision is found under Section 805 of the Covenant Agreement. The intent was to prevent land exploitation by huge U.S. corporations for 25 years, during the formative years of the CNMI government.

This provision has achieved its intended purpose. Therefore, it is fitting to restore the land tenure system once more. After all, the right to own property is a "natural right" that is unalienable.

What happened to our land tenure system under Article 12? 1.) It nullified the right of landowners to own their land 100 percent and it is for this reason that you are denied final disposition of your land. 2.) It substituted "individual" landownership with "communal landownership." It means the current arrangement (under Article 12) leaves disposition of your land in the hands of the government and could do anything it wishes, including its redistribution.

Furthermore, proponents of Article 12 have taken the intent of Section 805 beyond exploitation. They have turned it to mean limiting land to the indigenous people. This warped view is wrong and it's vital to institute discussion with a sense of intellectual integrity so we restore the land tenure system sooner than later. It's our land tenure system!

Beyond the hyperbole, is the espoused position of preventing loss of land by the indigenous people? What about local to local land sale? Isn't it true that the minute a land deal is consumed the local seller loses his land? So what's the point? I've seen this form of land

## China summit forecasts shift in world power

**T**echnology and revolutionary changes in energy, banking and manufacturing will force a sunset on Western dominance.

Several speakers at the Second World Emerging Industries Summit in this central China city on the Yangtze River shared that forecast recently with business, government and university officials from nearly two dozen countries. "Technology creates new possibilities," said Dominique de Villepin, former prime minister of France.

Global dominance will shift to such countries as China, India and nations in Africa and South America. They are rich in resources and have a growing middle class.

A new cooperation will create new innovations and new horizons. "No one has to remain passive," de Villepin said.

In medicine the focus will be more on prevention than cures. Because of technology, renewable energy, banking changes, smart grids and 3-D printers, centralized manufacturing plants, which dominated the Industrial Age, will become a thing of the past. But there will also be a need for a worldwide security council to "take into account the new economy created by innovation," de Villepin said.

John and Doris Naisbitt, authors of "China's Megatrends," shared a similar message. The Western world has produced everything from the steam engine to the Internet.

The developing world has absorbed much of it, including the West's education, transportation, medical advances music, fast-food, clothing, entertainment, art, technology, ideology and culture. Dominance will shift to the developing nations, and technology will cause it to happen quickly.

Rapid change can be seen in the Arab Spring, Cuba opening up and Pope Francis' New World selection and direction for Catholics. This kind of "soft power" is spreading while the "hard power" of centralization, militarization and inflexibility keeps receding, John Naisbitt said.

Doris Naisbitt added that a transition is occurring from the old to the new world with a middle class growth in billions of people in countries like Brazil and China.

Indeed, highways and streets in Beijing, Wuhan and Hong Kong were clogged with American-size autos. Fuel efficiency didn't seem to matter to this emerging middle class as much as style and status.

### By LEWIS W. DIUGUID

The Kansas City Star

*Lewis W. Diuguid is a member of The Kansas City Star's Editorial Board. Readers may write to him at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by email at Ldiuguid@kcstar.com.*



The air also was thick with pollution, making breathing difficult. People at the summit needed to question whether Western dominance was receding or multinational corporations in the West were simply offloading polluting industries on developing nations. The shrinking U.S. middle class also should question whether the emerging middle class in developing nations will now replace U.S. consumers as the target market for products and services.

The haze and questions about the future were just as murky and choking as the air quality of China. The dirt of pollution streaked windows of otherwise beautiful hotels and skyscrapers.

Many luxury cars and SUVs were coated with the air's filth. To protect themselves, many people wore face masks in cities my partner, Bette, and I visited.

Deteriorating health is the high cost of emerging countries, pushing hard and fast for the lifestyle of the West.

Wang Jian, the board chairman of the Beijing Genomics Institution, told the summit the world must decide which is more important—people or money and growth.

"If not for health, what is the purpose of growth industries?" he asked. "People are the most important factor."

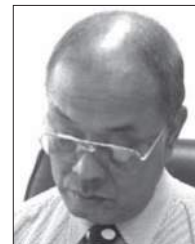
High blood pressure, cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular, respiratory and other illnesses stalk the successful Western lifestyle, other presenters at the summit warned.

In one slide, Wang showed the classic picture of man progressing from a hunched chimpanzee walking on all four limbs, to standing upright as a human being, to regressing to a hunched person at a computer. Let's hope humanity makes the needed corrections so that the regression is arrested, pollution and global warming are reversed and species are saved, giving people and the planet a livable future.

### By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



sale where the seller ended up squatting on public land.

Moreover, what's the fear of Article 12 proponents returning full ownership to landowners? Isn't this a local form of paternalism used cleverly to control the minds of the multitude? Did you forget that over the last 35 years we've secured education and maturity? Since when did any of us allow you direct disruptive role in the disposition of our private land?

There are two other silent though woefully egregious provisions under Article 12: 1.) Central Planning: It's a socialistic method of planning used in communist countries to control the livelihood of the multitude. 2.) Paternalism: It's power used by the powers-that-be (including political dinosaurs) who wish to keep telling us what's good for us for ALL the wrong reasons. These mindsets run against the grain of our right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" inherent under the preamble of the Declaration of Independence.

How interesting too the deafening silence of our government as the agent of protection of our right to privately owned land. Its use of the term "protection" has never been defined so we secure clear understanding of what Article 12 protects. Or is it mired in its confused definition to mean protecting landowners from owning their land? What protection is there when you instantly alienate landowners from their land? Exhausted political dinosaurs must rest right here and now! Let's restore our land tenure system by repealing Article 12.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Stop playing the race card on locals

I notice a growing use of the race card on the citizenship for the alien workers issue but they have no idea what they are talking about. FYI for the promoters of the race card, the issue of citizenship for the alien workforce is *not* about ethnicity but nationality, which makes all these racist arguments sound stupid to educated people who know the difference. It should also be noted that the Filipinos are *not* the only alien workers and it seems the people promoting the race card don't realize that this is not about Filipinos alone but *all* alien workers. Most of the alien workforce is Filipino, which is why I referred to them but the point is this is about a fight to control political power, not discrimination based on race.

The real sticking point is the large number of alien workers that outnumber the local population. I'm sure if this was about a few hundred people there may not be any opposition. But the local people would be foolish to sit still and watch a group of people who are not Americans become Americans virtually overnight that will give them the political majority. In fact, it is the *right* of locals to protect their sovereignty over local government, a right that our delegate needs to get Congress to acknowledge and reciprocate with the appropriate changes in the bill.

All this talk about breaking up homes and marriages is a lot of BS, as any spouse and children of an American will never have a problem remaining in the CNMI unless they are a threat to public safety. Saying the CNMI is not like Fiji is a another disconnect because that is exactly what we have in foreign laborers from other nations with different languages and cultures that is about to gain political power and possible control. Where is the discrimination? How are they being discriminated against? Who is doing the discriminating and what right do they have to become U.S. citizens? The racism promoters can't answer these tough questions so playing the race card to make people feel sorry or bad is their only approach to fight this but it does not work because race is not the issue.

The local people are not violating any principle or value by invoking their right to maintain and protect their political control over the CNMI from members of another nation of people. So you can stop playing your race card on people because this is about a right to American nationality, not racial injustice. This is a simple battle to maintain U.S. nationality control over our government, which includes all U.S. citizens in the CNMI regardless of their race before it is gift-wrapped and given to citizens of other nations.

### Ambrose M Bennett

Kagman, Saipan



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

### Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼76
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲89 ▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼80

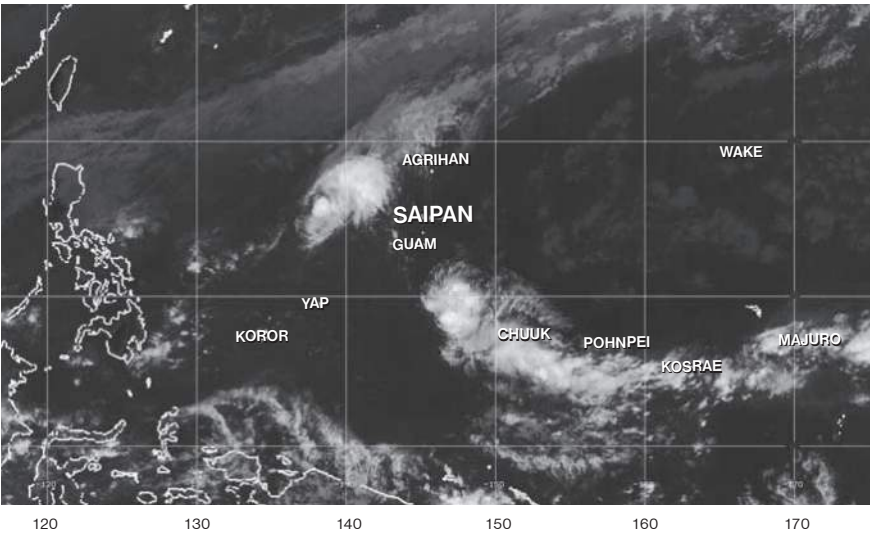
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲68 ▼66
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲56 ▼29
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲75 ▼60
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▼34
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼47
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼76
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲67 ▼49
Miami	Sunny	▲80 ▼66
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲51 ▼33
Osaka	Sunny	▲58 ▼44
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲44 ▼40
Pusan	Sunny	▲54 ▼41
Rome	Sunny	▲58 ▼40
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲40 ▼24
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼40
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲49 ▼35
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲58 ▼40
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲55 ▼41

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:14 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
9:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
7:39 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from near Minami Tori Shima at 25N148E to 21N140E to beyond 130E at 16N. Low clouds, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 380 miles northwest of this boundary. A weak surface trough extends northeastward from a tropical disturbance centered near 15N138E to end near 20N144E. Numerous showers, heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms are present west of the Marianas within 120 miles of a line from 14N137E to 18N141E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms exist over the extreme Northern Marianas within 160 miles of a line from 18N141E to 22N146e. Low-level convergence ahead of a weak trade-wind surge is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Guam across Chuuk to south of Pohnpei within 120 miles of a line from 11N147E to 7N151E to 4N158E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Pohnpei across Kosrae and Majuro within 130 miles of a line from 4N159E to 5N169E to 8N180.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:30AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:30AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:31AM	5:46 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:23 AM	7:07 PM
Thursday	8:24 AM	8:11 PM
Friday	9:21 AM	9:13 PM
Saturday	10:14 AM	10:14 PM
Sunday	11:04 AM	11:12 PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b> UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)</b> DL287 6:05am 11:25pm 2, 6 via NRT	<b>PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 D2102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 D2104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> D2101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily D2103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:05am 10:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:40am 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Expo puts the spotlight on unique Korean culture

The Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe was jam-packed last Friday, Nov. 29, with the community coming in full force to learn more about Korea during the Korean Cultural Expo.

Korean Cultural Center president Daniel Huh, who gave the opening remarks, explained the importance of Oct. 9, called Korean Alphabet Day. He said the country's alphabet, called Hangeul, is regarded as the most scientific, effective, and creative writing system for communication and is well known worldwide.

Huh also talked about the Korean national flag, Taegeukgi, and the Tooheo, a Korean traditional arrow-throwing entertainment game.

The Blue Dragon Taekwondo Corp. then took center stage and demonstrated the Korean martial arts of taekwondo, showing basic moves first before transitioning to smashing wooden boards using only their hands and feet.

The assembled crowd also got a kick out of the Korean king and queen costume display.

"Two gentlemen and two la-



The Bibimbap station.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

dies put on the Korean king and queen costumes. They showed off the luxurious and gorgeous

outfits so elegantly that all the spectators applauded," said Huh.

The centerpiece of the Kore-

an Cultural Day was the Bibimbap-making and -tasting event.

Bibimbap is a Korean tradi-

tional dish that is a symbol of harmony and cooperation.

The Bibimbap station was a

certified hit, with participants filing in by the tens to watch how the Korean traditional dish is made.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos joined Huh in stirring the big spoon—known as *joogeok* in Korean—to complete the cooking of Bibimbap.

While some mixed the boiled rice and a variety of ingredients that were in three big stainless steel bowls, some visitors played Tooheo. Marianas Baptist Academy principal Ramir Trinidad was seen trying the game, while Joy San Nicholas listened to Huh talk about Korean heroes shown in the books donated by the South Korea government. A number of children accompanied by their parents and friends were also seen having fun coloring Taegeukgi prints.

The Korean Cultural Expo was made possible with help from the Academy of Korean Studies, a Korean governmental agency.

The office of Korean Cultural Center is located in Kagman. For more information, call Huh at 285-2221 or email [kccmarianas@gmail.com](mailto:kccmarianas@gmail.com). (*Saipan Tribune*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Korean Cultural Center president Daniel Huh, left, show Attorney General Joey San Nicolas some of the books donated by the South Korea government for the event.



Korean king and queen costumes are put on display at the event. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two children are seen having fun coloring Taegeukgi prints.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos joins Korean Cultural Center president Daniel Huh in stirring the big spoon—known as *joogeok* in Korean—to complete the cooking of Bibimbap.



Members of the Blue Dragon Taekwondo Corp. demonstrate the Korean martial arts of taekwondo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Western Union resumes services in Tacloban, Leyte

**PHILIPPINES, Manila**—As makeshift markets pop up in the Leyte province in a bid for normality after Typhoon Haiyan, Universal Storefront Services Corp.—anchor agent of The Western Union Company—has successfully reopened two key locations in Tacloban to offer international money transfer services. USSC is the first to enable the transfer of much needed cash from overseas for embattled residents in this worst hit area.

Despite the operating challenges, USSC stores along Rizal Avenue and M.H. del Pilar Street in Tacloban are

» **First to reopen and offer international money transfer services in Tacloban, facilitating much needed remittances to loved ones**

copied by running on power generators with cash being flown in from Cebu to replenish the cash stocks badly needed by the beneficiaries in Tacloban. In addition, 14 other USSC stores throughout Leyte and Samar have also resumed operations as soon as cellular signals became available.

“Just like much of the province, we are making do with what little we



The USSC branch along Rizal Avenue in Tacloban City, Leyte, Philippines.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Western Union branch along M.H. del Pilar Street in Tacloban.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

have. A power generator is not ideal but it is getting the job done and as of this moment, the stores are able to pay out all money transfers,” said Gabriel Paredes, president & CEO, Universal Storefront Services Corp. “Just days earlier, USSC officers from the Visayas Region boarded the military C130 cargo plane to search for employees possibly hurt or missing from their washed out premises in the province. They also distributed 5,000 packs of relief goods to the needy. We do our best to always be there for our customers, employees, and the community; and this gets affirmed every time there is a national disaster.”

“The opening of the two USSC locations will provide much needed cash injections to those that need it most; sent by loved ones and well-wishers from overseas,” said Patricia Riingen, Senior Vice President, East & South Asia, Western Union.

“Western Union and USSC have been providing services to our loyal customers in the Philippines for 18 years out of our 22 year tenure in the Philippines. It

is times like these it becomes ever more of a priority to continue servicing them,” said Patricia Riingen.

To enable more consumers around the world to support the relief efforts

in response to Typhoon Haiyan’s aftermath, Western Union announced no-fee on inward transfers from 43 countries into the Philippines until Nov. 30, 2013. (*Western Union*)

## Chuuk education reform group makes progress on hastening infra upgrades

**CHUUK, Federated States of Micronesia**—The Chuuk Advisory Group on Education Reform focused on the issue of improving education infrastructure in Chuuk during its fourth quarterly meeting in Weno, Chuuk, during the week of Nov. 4, 2013.

The Advisory Group is assisting the Chuuk State Board of Education and the Department of Education to follow through on reform commitments that were made at the high level meeting on education reform held in November 2012, with representatives from the FSM national government, the U.S. government and the Chuuk state government.

Thomas Bussanich, director of the Division of Budget and Grants Management in the Office of Insular Affairs within the U.S. Department of the Interior; and Patrick Tellei, president of Palau Community College, attended the meeting. Fr. Francis X. Hezel, founder of the Micronesian Seminar, was unable to attend this particular meeting.

While the advisory group discussed a broad range of issues with Chuuk leaders and educators, the focus of this visit was on breaking through barriers and accelerating the improvement of education infrastructure in Chuuk. Since the beginning of the Amended Compact in 2004, only one high school has been built in Chuuk despite the availability of available funding for infrastructure. An estimated \$140 million remains available for Chuuk to improve infrastructure over the next 10 years, and all parties agreed education must be a priority going forward.

To assist in moving forward on the construction of school buildings, a one-day meeting was held on Thursday, Nov. 7, between Chuuk state leaders and the advisory group, along with infrastructure grants manager Steve Savage of the Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs, and Bruce Howell, PE, head of the FSM national government’s project management unit.

The meeting fully achieved its expected outcomes of:

(i) a clear understanding of the challenges and obstacles that have stalled action on education infrastructure in Chuuk to date, together with a clear articulation of workable solutions;

(ii) a clear and workable “model” for project preparation, modular school design, and construction management that meets Chuuk’s specific needs;

(iii) a clear and specific list of projects/school sites that will be used for initial site assessments; and

(iv) a clear understanding of timeline and tasks to be completed, as soon as practicable, to move forward on major renovations and new construction at school sites.

During the meeting, a revised list of 25 prioritized public school sites in all five regions of the state were agreed upon to move forward with professional engineering work and other necessary assessments to determine their appropriateness for major renovation and/or new construction. It was agreed by all parties that this process will require outside engineering contractors and at least one full time project manager.

Through this close partnership and planning effort by Chuuk State, the national government through the Project Management Unit and the Office of Insular Affairs, with the assistance of the advisory group, it is hoped to begin project construction on a shortened list of schools prior to the next school year.

According to Tom Bussanich, “We feel that with this high level meeting, we have moved significantly forward in our efforts to overcome a variety of obstacles to building and improving schools here in Chuuk. It is our hope that these efforts will result in the construction of numerous schools next school year to the benefit of students, teachers and the broader community.”

The advisory group also continued to discuss a broad variety of other issues directed at improving educational performance in Chuuk’s primary and secondary schools. The Board of Education and the advisory group agreed on a revised list of school consolidations that will be completed by Dec. 31, 2013. The Board of Education also agreed that they would finalize comprehensive plans, with the assistance of consultants, for teacher and professional educator contracts, school attendance monitoring, Board Training, a Primary School Pilot Project, WorldTeach volunteer utilization, basic school standards, and procurement, distribution and warehousing of supplies.

During its one week of meetings in Chuuk, the advisory group once again held separate and joint meetings with the Chuuk governor, the Legislature, the Board of Education, and Department of Education to discuss the ongoing progress of 10 high level commitments made at the high level event as well as additional recommendations made by the advisory group during its first three quarterly meetings. The AG and the board have developed a productive working relationship as they partner to ensure implementation of needed reforms.

The advisory group will return to Chuuk for its next quarterly meeting on or about the last week of February 2014.

For additional information on background documents, meeting proceedings, correspondence and Advisory Group reports, visit <http://www.pitiviti.org/chuuk>. (*PR*)

## UOG completes grant project on eggplants

**BARRIGADA, Guam**—The University of Guam recently completed a Conservation Innovation Grant titled “Development implementation and economic evaluation of sustainable insect management approaches to control the mites on eggplant.” CIG’s are administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a federal agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The goal of this CIG was to find a biological and biochemical control for the *Tetranychus marianae* spider mite on eggplant. The current practice of spraying insecticides 12 times per crop may cause undesirable off-

site impacts as well as lead to pest resistance. This project also had an educational component which included production of a video to be distributed to farmers, growers and the public; develop demonstration plots for Integrated Pest Management growers; and hold workshops for agencies and the general public that deal with all aspects of the IPM practices

For this project, plots were set up at the Yigo and Inarajan Agricultural Experiment Stations in Guam and evaluated in dry and rainy seasons. After each eggplant plot had been populated with the spider mites three alternative treatments were applied. The best con-

trol resulted with the predatory mite, petroleum spray combination. In addition, this project established the first economic threshold level for spider mite on eggplant for Guam. The economic threshold levels findings were four and eight mites per leaf in the dry and rainy season respectively.

“We are excited to have this information and hope that other eggplant growers will find this to be useful,” stated Carlos Suarez, acting director for the Pacific Islands Area.

For more information about the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Conservation Innovation Grant, visit [www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov). (*NRCS*)



# Business

## Power up and shop for Cyber Monday

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Millions of Americans logged on to e-commerce sites Monday to take advantage of deals ranging from free shipping to hundreds of dollars off electronics and half-price clothing on what was expected to be the busiest Internet shopping day of the year. And many of those purchases were made using mobile devices.

The spending surge associated with Cyber Monday came after a disappointing Thanksgiving holiday weekend in stores. It also showed that shoppers are increasingly comfortable buy-

ing on tablets and smartphones.

Joel Anderson, president and CEO of Walmart.com, said 2013 would be the “tipping point” for mobile shopping.

Early results indicated online shopping was up 17.5 percent compared with the same time last year, according to figures by IBM Benchmark. Mobile devices accounted for more than 29 percent of all online traffic.

Brandon Harris, 27, from Memphis, Tenn., started shopping at midnight Sunday and by Monday had spent around \$300 and completed half of his Christmas shopping, including

a Barbie doll for his niece and a TV for his mother.

“I haven’t shopped for a Christmas present in a store in three years,” he said, making purchases from his iPad instead. “It’s a lot more convenient to be at home and shop.”

The National Retail Federation, a trade group, predicted that more than 131 million people would shop online Monday, up about 2 percent from last year. Meanwhile, UPS expected to pick up more than 32 million packages on Monday, about a million more than on the same day last year.

## Amazon.com sees delivery drones as future



This undated image provided by Amazon.com shows the so-called Prime Air unmanned aircraft project that Amazon is working on in its research and development labs.

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Amazon is working on a way to get packages to customers in 30 minutes or less—via self-guided drone.

Consider it the modern version of a pizza delivery boy, minus the awkward teenager.

Amazon.com Inc. says it’s working on the so-called Prime Air unmanned aircraft project but it will take years to advance the technology and for the Federal Aviation Administration to create the necessary rules and regulations.

The project was first reported by CBS’ “60 Minutes” Sunday night, hours before millions of shoppers turned to their computers to hunt Cyber

Monday bargains.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos said in the interview that while his octocopters look like something out of science fiction, there’s no reason they can’t be used as delivery vehicles.

Bezos said the drones can carry packages that weigh up to five pounds, which covers about 86 percent of the items Amazon delivers. The drones the company is testing have a range of about 10 miles, which Bezos noted could cover a significant portion of the population in urban areas.

Bezos told “60 Minutes” the project could become a working service in four or five years.

Unlike the drones used by the military, Bezos’ proposed flying machines won’t need humans to control them remotely. Amazon’s drones would receive a set of GPS coordinates and automatically fly to them, presumably avoiding buildings, power lines and other obstacles.

Delivery drones raise a host of concerns, from air traffic safety to homeland security and privacy. There are technological and legal obstacles, too—similar to Google’s experimental driverless car. How do you design a machine that safely navigates the roads or skies without hitting anything? And, if an accident occurs, who’s legally liable?

## Fast-food strikes aim at 100 US cities

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Fast-food workers in about 100 cities will walk off the job on Thursday, organizers say, which would mark the largest effort yet in a push for higher pay.

The actions are intended to build on a campaign that began about a year ago to call attention to the difficulties of living on the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, or about \$15,000 a year for a full-time employee.

The protests are part of a movement by labor unions, Democrats and other worker advocacy groups to raise pay in low-wage sectors. Last month, President Barack Obama said he

would back a Senate measure to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour.

Protesters are calling for \$15 an hour, although many see the figure as a rallying point rather than a near-term possibility.

It’s not clear how large the turnout will be at any given location, or whether the walkouts will be enough to disrupt operations. Similar actions this summer had varying results, with some restaurants unable to serve customers and others seemingly unaffected.

The National Restaurant Association, an industry lobbying group, called the demonstra-

tions a “campaign engineered by national labor groups,” and said the vast majority of participants were union protesters rather than workers.

The group added that past demonstrations “have fallen well short of their purported numbers.”

Kendall Fells, a New York City-based organizer for Fast Food Forward, said demonstrations are planned for 100 cities, in addition to the 100 cities where workers will strike. He said plans started coming together shortly after the one-day actions in about 60 cities this summer.

# Nation

## NTSB: Train going too fast at curve

**YONKERS, N.Y. (AP)**—A commuter train that derailed over the weekend, killing four passengers, was hurtling at 82 mph as it entered a 30 mph curve, a federal investigator said Monday. But whether the wreck was the result of human error or mechanical trouble was unclear, he said.

Rail experts said the tragedy might have been prevented if Metro-North Railroad had installed automated crash-avoidance technology that safety authorities have been urging for decades.

The locomotive’s speed was extracted from the train’s two data recorders after the Sunday morning accident, which happened in the Bronx along a



Cranes salvage the last car from a train derailment in the Bronx section of New York, Monday, Dec. 2, 2013.

bend so sharp that the speed limit drops from 70 mph to 30 mph.

Asked why the train was going so fast, National Transportation Safety Board member Earl Weener said: “That’s the question we need to answer.”

Weener would not disclose what the engineer operating the train told investigators, and he said results of drug and alcohol tests were not yet available. Investigators are also examining the engineer’s cellphone, apparently to determine whether he was distracted.

“When I heard about the speed, I gulped,” said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

Engineers may not use cellphones while on the train, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which runs Metro-North.

The engineer, William Rockefeller, was injured and “is totally traumatized by everything that has happened,” said Anthony Bottalico, executive director of the rail employees union.

He said Rockefeller, 46, was cooperating fully with investigators.

“He’s a sincere human being with an impeccable record that I know of. He’s diligent and competent,” Bottalico said. Rockefeller has been an engineer for about 11 years and a Metro-North employee for about 20, he said.

Outside Rockefeller’s modest house in Germantown, N.Y., police told reporters that at the request of the family, anyone who trespassed would be arrested. Calls to the home went unanswered.



## Supreme Court won't stop NY's Internet taxation

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—On perhaps the busiest online shopping day of the year, the Supreme Court refused to wade into a dispute over state sales taxes for purchases on websites like Amazon.com, an outcome likely to prompt more states to attempt to collect taxes on Internet sales.

Monday’s court action means “it might be the last in Cyber Monday without sales tax,” said Joseph Henchman of the Washington-based Tax Foundation.

It’s all part of a furious battle—also including legislation in Congress—among Internet sellers, millions of buyers, aggrieved brick-and-mortar stores and states hungry for billions of dollars in extra tax revenue.

The high court without comment turned away appeals from Amazon.com LLC and Overstock.com Inc. in their fight against a New York court decision forcing them to remit sales tax the same way in-state businesses do. This

could hurt online shopping in that state, since one of the attractions of Internet purchasing is the lack of a state sales tax, which makes some items a little cheaper than they would be inside a store on the corner.

And the effect could be felt far beyond New York if it encourages other states to act. The National Council of State Legislatures estimates that states lost an estimated \$23.3 billion in 2012 as a result of being unable to collect sales tax on online and catalog purchases.

## Shark attack off Maui leaves fisherman dead

**HONOLULU (AP)**—A kayak fisherman died Monday after a shark attack off Maui, local officials said.

Maui County Ocean Safety officials received a report that a shark attacked a man fishing in a kayak between Maui and Molokini, a small island less than 3 miles off the southwest coast of Maui that’s popular for diving and snorkeling.

Maui County police identified the man as Patrick Briney, 57, of Stevenson, Wash.

The shark bit his dangling foot while he fished with arti-

ficial lures to attract baitfish, a news release from the state Department of Land and Natural Resources said.

His fishing partner in another kayak tied a tourniquet on the man and sought help from a nearby charter tour boat. The boat took them to shore, and the man was then taken to a hospital, the state said.

The kind of shark involved was not immediately available.

Though the attack happened far from shore, the state advised the public to stay out of the water a mile north and a mile south

of Makena State Recreation Area in southwest Maui.

There have been eight shark attacks near Maui this year and 13 statewide. On Friday, a woman suffered nonfatal injuries in a Maui attack.

“We are not sure why these bites are occurring more frequently than normal, especially around Maui,” said department Chairman William Aila Jr. “That’s why we are conducting a two-year study of shark behavior around Maui that may give us better insights.”



# Asia

## ‘China has right to set another air zone’

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—China has a sovereign right to establish a maritime air defense zone over another region as it did in the East China Sea, the Chinese envoy to the Philippines said Monday.

The United States and key Asian allies have not honored the East China Sea zone, which was announced on Nov. 23 and is seen primarily as a bid to bolster China's claim over uninhabited Japanese-controlled islands known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China. The Philippines is locked in a long territorial dispute with China in the South China Sea.

When asked to comment about concerns that China might set up a similar zone over the South China Sea, Ambassador Ma Ke-qing said in a news conference that it was within the right of the Chinese government to decide “where and when to set up the new air identification zone.”

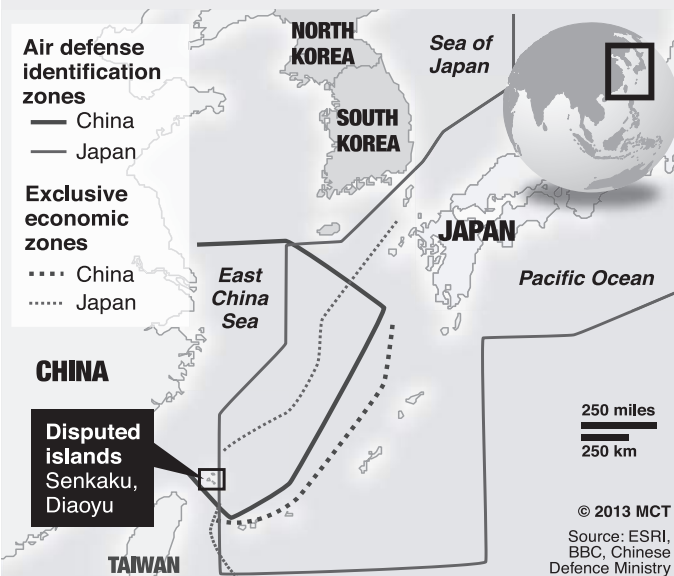
But she added she could not tell at this time if China would do so.

Ma said that the East China Sea zone's designation should not spark concerns.

“I think the target is not to trigger a conflict but to prevent, to pre-empt any tension to be

### New air zone

*U.S. bombers and Japanese planes flew over disputed islands and through a new airspace defense zone declared by China.*



raised in these areas,” Ma said. “This will not hinder any normal freedom of flights within this area if they’ve notified the Chinese authorities.”

The new U.S. ambassador to Manila, Philip Goldberg, described China's move as dangerous.

“We do not believe that this is a move intended to build confidence or, in any other way, improve the situation,” Goldberg

told reporters.

Instead, China's new zone “will create tension and the possibility of miscalculations and that's never good, especially in an area where we know that, whether it's over the Senkakus or ... the South China Sea.”

While the U.S. has not recognized the Chinese imposition, it has advised its carriers to comply to be safe.

## Thai protests ease as police lift key barricades



A Thai policeman puts barbed wire outside the metropolitan police headquarters, in Bangkok, Thailand Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013.

**BANGKOK (AP)**—Anti-government protesters swarmed into the Thai prime minister's office compound Tuesday as police stood by and watched, allowing them to claim a symbolic victory after three days of bitter clashes.

Hundreds of protesters poured onto the lawn of Government House, waving Thai flags and blowing whistles to celebrate a symbolic victory.

The unexpected reversal of strategy by the government suggests it no longer wants to confront the protesters and was willing to compromise to ease tensions ahead of revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 86th birthday Thursday.

After bitterly resisting protesters with tear gas and rubber bullets since Saturday, police lounged on sidewalks as pro-

testers removed the barriers on a road leading to the prime minister's office and walked through.

Earlier Tuesday, Police used cranes to remove concrete slabs and barbed wire barricades on a nearby road leading to the police headquarters after agreeing to let the protesters into the building.

It had been widely expected that some kind of an understanding would be reached to allow the protests to pause for King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday on Thursday. The king is highly revered by all Thais and is seen as the sole uniting figure in the country.

Government officials did not comment on the developments, and it was not clear if this would provide more than a lull to the violence and the crippling political deadlock that is undermining Thailand's democracy, economy and tourism.

The protesters, mostly middle-class Bangkok supporters of the opposition Democrat Party, accuse Yingluck of being a proxy for her elder brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

## Bird steals camera in Australia, records journey

**SYDNEY (AP)**—A brazen bird snatched a video camera that was recording crocodiles in northwest Australia and captured fascinating footage of its 110-kilometer (70-mile) journey across the country's remote landscape.

Wildlife rangers in Western Australia's Kimberly region released video on Monday that reveals the sea eagle's caper. The bird's flapping wings can be seen as it grabs

the device and takes off, and the eagle later poses for a selfie, poking its face into the camera lens.

Rangers set up the motion-sensor camera along the Margaret River in May, hoping to record images of crocodiles. The camera, which is about 10 to 15 centimeters (4 to 6 inches) long and 5 centimeters (2 inches) wide, disappeared soon after and the rangers figured it had

fallen into the water.

The rangers recently found out that the device had been found near the Mary River, about 110 kilometers (70 miles) away, ranger Roneil Skeen told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. When they examined the video inside, the real culprit was revealed.

The rangers plan to bolt down their cameras from now on, Skeen said.

# World

## UN: Evidence ‘indicates’ Assad role

**GENEVA (AP)**—A growing body of evidence collected by U.N. investigators points to the involvement of senior Syrian officials, including President Bashar Assad, in crimes against humanity and war crimes, the U.N.'s top human rights official said Monday.

The statement by Navi Pillay, who heads the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, adds to the pressure for quicker action on Syria ahead of a key peace conference planned for Geneva in January. The conference, brought on by combined U.N., U.S. and Russian diplomacy, would for the first time bring the Assad government and opponents together for face-to-face negotiations.

“As we look around the world at the end of 2013, we see examples of situations where that readiness of the in-

ternational community to act in time is already being sorely tested,” Pillay told a news conference that touched on trouble spots around the world.

“In addition to Syria, where the scale and viciousness of the abuses being perpetrated by elements on both sides almost defies belief, the situation in the Central African Republic is deteriorating rapidly, and the alarm bells are ringing loud and clear.”

Pillay said the Syrian abuses—suspected massacres, chemical attacks, torture, rape and a litany of other horrors—are being well documented by an expert U.N. panel of investigators.

“They’ve produced massive evidence,” she said. “They point to the fact that the evidence indicates responsibility at the highest level of government, including the head of state.”

Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad was dismissive of Pillay's remarks.

“She has been talking nonsense for a long time and we don't listen to her,” he told The Associated Press in The Hague.

Pillay said the lists of suspected criminals are handed to her on a confidential basis and will remain sealed until requested by international or national authorities for a “credible investigation,” and then possibly used for prosecution.

Pillay said she worries about striking the right balance in determining how long to keep the information secret. The lists “rightly belongs to the people who suffered violations,” she said, but they also must be kept sealed “to preserve the presumption of innocence” until proper judicial probes can be done that could lead to trial.

## Islamic militants attack Nigerian air force base

**MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)**—Hundreds of Islamic militants in trucks and a stolen armored personnel carrier attacked an air force base and international airport on the outskirts of a Nigerian city before dawn Monday, officials and witnesses said, possibly leaving scores of people dead in one of the insurgent group's most daring attacks.

Two helicopters and three decommissioned military aircraft were “incapacitated” in the attack, said a statement from Brig. Gen. Chris Olukolade, the Ministry of Defense spokesman. He said some army bases also were hit.

Twenty-four insurgents were killed and many were wounded along with two air force personnel, Olukolade said in a statement.

The state government quickly ordered everyone to stay home and extended a nighttime curfew to 24 hours in Maiduguri, the city near the air base which is also the birthplace of the extremist Boko Haram movement.

The militants also attacked Maiduguri International Airport, the official said. Oluko-



In this photo taken with an iPad policemen stand guards at a burn-out truck following an attack by Boko haram Islamists near an Air force base in Maiduguri, Nigeria, Monday, Dec. 2, 2013.

lade said flight operations were temporarily disrupted but have resumed. International flights to Maiduguri stopped months ago but domestic flights had continued.

Explosions and automatic gunfire could be heard across the northeastern city from around 2:30 a.m. when the insurgents launched the attack with screams of “Allahu akbar,” or “God is great.”

The fighting continued until about 7 a.m.

Government and military officials said scores of people may be dead. Reporters saw military ambulances ferrying bodies to the hospital morgue.

Civilians living around the military base, which is off a main road, said they saw bodies with slit throats and corpses of insurgents burning in vehicles.

Olukolade said security forces are pursuing the attackers and urged citizens to report any fleeing insurgents who could be identified by gunshot wounds.

## Gunman killed in rare Iceland police shooting

**LONDON (AP)**—Police in Iceland said Monday they shot dead a gunman—the first time armed police have killed someone in the nation.

Iceland, which has a tiny population of around 320,000, has a low crime rate and gun violence is extremely rare. Its regular police force does not carry firearms.

Haraldur Johannessen, National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police, said Monday's incident was unprecedented.

Police said officers were called to an apartment in the Reykjavik suburb of Arbaer early Monday when a man fired a

shotgun from inside the flat. Two policemen, who were not armed, were shot at when trying to enter the gunman's apartment.

Witnesses told local media that a smoke bomb was thrown into the apartment through a broken window in efforts to subdue the man. A special armed unit then entered and fired at the man, who was rushed to the hospital, where he died. No one else has been injured.

“All available members of the police force were deployed, and they tried to subdue him, but it was not successful,” Reykjavik Metropolitan Police Commis-

sioner Stefan Eiriksson told a press conference, according to local media website Visir. “The man began to shoot out the window of the apartment and it was decided to take action.”

The motives of the man, who has not been named, are unclear. According to RUV, Iceland's national television station, the gunman was a man in his fifties and had been making threats to his neighbors.

Shotguns for hunting are legal in Iceland. Many Icelanders believe that the country rarely sees gun violence in part because handguns are banned.



# Focus

**BANGKOK (AP)**—Both the protesters on the streets of Bangkok and the Thai government pleading for them to go home say they're on the side of democracy, but that is not what their increasingly dangerous conflict is about. This is a fight about power, and who ought to have it.

The unrest that has brought the capital to the brink of catastrophe this week has laid bare a societal schism pitting the majority rural poor against an urban-based elite establishment. It is a divide that has led to upheaval several times in recent years, sometimes death, even though the man at the center of it, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, has not set foot in Thailand since 2008.

Thaksin is despised by millions who consider him to be a corrupt threat to the traditional status quo, but supported by millions more who welcome the populist policies that benefit them.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's sister, helped set the stage for Thailand's latest protests by backing an amnesty bill that would have wiped out a corruption conviction that keeps Thaksin in self-imposed exile. Now his longtime political foes are trying to use that public anger to seize control.

Suthep Thaugsuban, an opposition politician who resigned from Parliament to lead the protests, says he won't stop until power is "in the people's hands," but his plan sounds anything but democratic. He's calling for an unelected "people's council" to replace a government that won a landslide victory at the polls just two years ago.

And the way his supporters have gone about it has not been entirely peaceful. They have called for Yingluck's overthrow from the occupied halls of seized government offices. They burst through the gates of Thailand's army headquarters and urged the military to "take a stand." And since the weekend, they have tried to battle their way into the prime minister's office with slingshots and burning Molotov cocktails, and threatened to overrun television stations that do not broadcast their message.

Thailand has endured 18 successful or attempted military coups since the 1930s, but so far the army has remained neutral.

Yingluck said Monday she will do everything she can "to bring peace back to the Thai people," but said there is no way the government could meet Suthep's demand under the constitution. Suthep has said Yingluck's resignation and new elections would not be enough.

Thitinan Pongsudhirak, director of Chulalongkorn's Institute of Security and International Studies, said the two sides "believe in different versions of

democracy."

"It is a fight for the soul of the nation, for the future of the country," he said. One side wants "to be heard" while the protesters "want the kind of legitimacy that stems from moral authority. Their feeling is ... if the elected majority represents the will of the corrupt, it's not going to work."

The unrest already may have weakened Southeast Asia's second-largest economy. Thailand is a lucrative manufacturing hub whose factories produce everything from computer hard drives to cars that feed a global supply chain. The country is one of the world's leading rice exporters. Its sapphire-blue water beaches are among the world's most popular tourist destinations, but the government has said protests are driving tourists away.

The latest unrest began last month, after Yingluck's ruling Pheu Thai Party tried to ram the controversial amnesty bill through. Even many traditional Thaksin supporters disliked it because it also would have pardoned top opposition leaders.

The bill failed to pass Parliament's upper house, and emboldened protesters drew 100,000 people to a mass rally in Bangkok on Nov. 24. Over the week that followed, demonstrators seized the Finance Ministry and part of a sprawling government office complex that includes the Constitutional Court. They also massed outside half a dozen other government ministries, taking over offices and prompting the evacuation of civil servants—some of whom had eagerly waved them inside.

*This is a fight about power, and who ought to have it.*

uation of civil servants—some of whom had eagerly waved them inside.

The conflict escalated dramatically this weekend, and blood spilled for the first time. At least three people were killed when anti-government demonstrators clashed with pro-Thaksin "red shirt" activists near a stadium where a pro-government rally was being held.

Outside Yingluck's office at the now heavily fortified Government House, masked mobs launched repeated bids to storm



An anti-government protester uses a slingshot during a protest rally in Bangkok, Thailand, in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013. AP

## Long-running societal divide fuels THAI CONFLICT

rings of concrete barriers. The police used force there for the first time, unleashing volleys of rubber bullets and tear gas.

The protests have failed to dislodge the government so far, but it remains possible that Thailand's history will repeat itself.

The army deposed Thaksin in a 2006 coup. Controversial court rulings that critics labeled "judicial coups" forced the resignation of two Thaksin-allied

the city in flames. More than 90 people died, many of them protesters gunned down in an army crackdown ordered by Suthep, who was deputy prime minister at the time.

The Democrats, who have not won a national election in more than 20 years, were soundly beaten by Pheu Thai and Yingluck in 2011. Protesters claim her ascent was only made possible with Thaksin money.

"You can't call this a democracy," said Sombat Benjasiramongkol, a demonstrator who stood outside a police compound this week. "This government is a dictatorship that came to power by buying votes. Yingluck's supporters are poor. They are uneducated. And they are easily bought."

Pavin Chachavalponpun, an associate professor at Kyoto University's Center for Southeast Asian Studies, said such claims form a pretext that Thaksin's opponents are using in an attempt to seize power.

The anti-government protest movement is simply "a minority that is refusing to play the game of electoral politics. They cannot compete with Thaksin, they cannot win elections. So they come up with this discourse of village people being so uneducated they don't know how to vote," Pavin said. "But the reality is, these people (Thaksin

supporters) are not stupid. They are politically conscious. They have become awakened."

Even if the Shinawatra clan can claim electoral legitimacy, the conflict between the two sides is not black and white.

Thaksin, a billionaire who made his fortune in telecommunications during Thailand's late 80s-early 90s boom years, was accused of manipulating government policies to benefit his business empire. His critics charged he was arrogant and intolerant of the press; at one point he went so far as to have cronies try to buy controlling shares in two influential daily newspapers that had criticized him.

During his five years in office, Thaksin also came under fire for ham-fisted handling of a Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, and a particularly brutal "war on drugs" that left 2,300 people dead in 2003. Human rights groups complained police were turned loose to kill drug dealers and users at will.

Nevertheless, Thaksin remains hugely popular in Thailand's rural north and northeast and among many of Bangkok's working class for populist policies including subsidized housing and nearly free health care.

Opponents dismiss Yingluck as Thaksin's puppet, though for most of her administration she has trod a more careful path than

her brother, building a fragile détente with the army and managing to keep a lid on the nation's divisions. But she was damaged by the amnesty bill, by a court ruling rejecting her party's attempts to boost its power in the Senate, and by controversial policies including a rice-buying scheme that the International Monetary Fund has criticized.

Suthep told The Associated Press recently that his supporters "feel that if the country continues on this path, it will fall into pieces. ... So they come out today to fight for their country and for their children's future."

But Suthep's tactics and his demands have riled even some of his own backers. Democrat lawmaker Korn Chatikavanij, a former finance minister, asked last week: "How will this so-called 'people's government' happen? I still can't quite imagine."

Thailand's political tensions have played out against a backdrop over fears about the future of its monarchy. Thaksin's critics have accused him of disrespecting ailing King Bhumibol Adulyadej and trying to gain influence with Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, the heir to the throne.

Many hope the conflict will ease Thursday, when Bhumibol turns 86.

The fear is that any peace will only be temporary.



# Campus Life

## Critical thinking hallmark of Common Core class

MIDDLETOWN, Del. (AP)—Remembering the plot of a short story is no longer good enough in teacher Amy Lawson's fifth-grade classroom.

Today's students are being asked to think more critically. For example, what might a character say in an email to a friend?

"It's hard. But you can handle this," Lawson tells them.

Welcome to a classroom using the Common Core State Standards, one of the most politicized and misunderstood changes in education for students and their teachers in kindergarten through high school.

In 45 states and the District of Columbia, Lawson and other teachers are starting to use the standards to guide what skills students learn and when.

To hear the standards' critics—mainly tea party-aligned conservatives, but also some parents and teachers—tell it, there are few things more dangerous happening in the country.

But in this fast-growing community in northern Delaware, it's just another day in the classroom.

■ ■ ■

The Common Core State Standards are academic benchmarks that outline the skills a student should have at each level.

For instance, third-graders should know how to find the perimeter of a figure. A fifth-grader should be able to compare and contrast two characters from a story.

The standards were created by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers to improve academic achievement and increase accountability. President Barack Obama and his administration embraced them.

That led critics, including Republican members of Congress, to call the standards a national curriculum, or "Obamacore." The standards are not a curriculum, despite the opponents' claims. Each state, school or even teacher can determine how to help students reach those standards.

Alaska, Texas, Nebraska and Virginia decided not to adopt them. Minnesota has adopted only the English standards.

At the core of the standards is a reduced emphasis on memorization. Students now have to connect the dots and apply critical thinking. It's what experts call higher-order thinking. Teachers say it's preparing students for life after high school.

That has made classrooms much more of a hands-on proposition.

■ ■ ■

In teacher Melissa Grieshober's classroom, students



Amy Lawson, a fifth-grade teacher at Silver Lake Elementary School in Middletown, Del., teaches an English language arts lesson Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013. AP

have set aside work sheets in favor of a game board. On their 10-by-10 grid of numbers, they are playing a version of capture the flag, using flashcards to guide their moves: a "22-7" card lets them move 15 spaces; "16-9" allows them to move 7.

In pairs, the students try to reach targets on the board, not only by solving the problems at hand but by figuring out which cards would get them closer to their targets. It's as much about probability, predictability and luck as it is about rote memorization of addition and subtraction tables.

In fact, in Grieshober's classroom, there is no right or wrong way to figure out such problems. Yes, there are correct answers. But students are encouraged to explain how they got there.

"How did you reach that number?" Grieshober asked one of her third-grade students. "Show me your strategy for solving this."

But what about those who say schools exist to teach students facts, such as 15 subtracted from 20 equals five?

"We are asking kids to do more, and to dig deeper," Grieshober said after class. "We are teaching them to be lifelong problem solvers."

She knows the criticism and political punch it carries. But she isn't ready to ditch the benchmarks.

"It's eye-opening when you come into a school," Grieshober said. "I encourage any politician to go into a local

school and see what it is."

■ ■ ■

Critics' biggest disagreement with the standards is that students and teachers are being expected to do more and do it more quickly. If either group doesn't keep up, there are serious consequences.

"Honestly, it's overwhelming at first," said Lara Crowley, an English and language arts specialist who is coaching teachers on the Common Core standards in Delaware's Appoquinimink School District. "I had a hard time wrapping my head around how this was going to work."

For instance, subtraction is now introduced in kindergarten instead of first grade.

"We were nervous," Crowley said. "It raises the bar for us."

For the students as well as the teachers.

Coinciding with the new standards are new tests for students and evaluations for teachers. The tests, mandated under the George W. Bush-era No Child Left Behind education law, help states identify schools that are struggling and provide them extra help.

The teacher evaluations were not originally part of the Common Core. But in exchange for millions of federal dollars to help them avoid layoffs during the worst of the recession, states agreed to greater accountability for students and teachers. Many opted to go with the Common Core and linked students' progress with teacher performance.

In some places, such as New

York and Minnesota, the shift to Common Core testing produced in steep drop in student scores, which reflected poorly on teachers.

"We know there is going to be a bump in the road. But we're going to do our best for the students," said Silver Lake Elementary School principal Cynthia Clay, a 31-year educator who has insisted her teachers receive training on the new standards.

Teachers meet in the evenings, during their planning periods and exchange emails asking how they might best approach the standards. Clay pulled together teachers with similar levels of experience so they could share their stories and realize they aren't alone in their frustrations.

"In a perfect world, the tests would reflect how well the students are learning," said Melissa Bowser, a 15-year classroom veteran.

But she, like her colleagues, expects there will be a decline in student scores.

"It will take two or three years," said Sherry Frangia, who has taught for more than 30 years and is bracing for the dip in scores.

That doesn't mean testing is the enemy.

"We need some sort of evidence that they're learning," Frangia said. "We didn't get into teaching to stand up here and have nothing to show for it."

■ ■ ■

Back in Lawson's classroom,

fifth-graders are continuing work on a lesson about points of view.

Students are clustered in groups as Lawson read aloud Judy Blume's 1974 short story, "The Pain and the Great One." Unlike previous years, when students were asked to remember basic details about the plot and characters, the questions this year weren't as simple.

She assigned each student a character in the book and then told them to write an email message from that character to a friend.

"I need to see all pencils moving, friends," she says.

In classrooms at non-Common Core schools, the assignment might have been filling out a work sheet with questions about which character said what. Now, the students are being asked to take the reading a step further and to critically question whether their character was an honest narrator.

"It's not in the story. You will have to infer here," Lawson says.

Students don't seem to mind. "We're doing things, not just sitting there and listening," fifth-grader Jon Warner said after the lesson. "My opinions matter."

In fact, students are encouraged to disagree with their classmates and push them to defend their thinking.

"Are we allowed to have different opinions about this?" Lawson says, urging her students to share differing opinions about the picture book. "Yes, as long as you have evidence to back this up."

## Common Core academic standards

Forty-five states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Common Core State Standards with the goal of sending high school graduates into the world ready for college or career. But they're hardly without controversy.

A look at the learning standards and the issues surrounding them:

**Q: What are the Common Core State Standards?**

**A:** The standards spell out the reading and math skills that students should have at each grade level, from kindergarten through high school. For example, a first-grade reader should be able to use a story's pictures and details to describe its characters. In math, a first-grade student should be able to add and subtract, and in third grade do multiplication and division.

**Q: Is this a set curriculum?**

**A:** This actually isn't a curriculum in the sense of prescribing day-by-day lessons. Schools and teachers still come up with their own lessons to teach the skills to students.

**Q: Weren't there standards before?**

**A:** Yes, but they varied from state to state. Some states had very few changes to make when they shifted to Common Core, while others had to overhaul their existing plans.

**Q: How is Common Core different from the old standards?**

**A:** The new standards require students to think and reason more. It's not enough to recall facts or do a math problem. Students have to explain their process.

**Q: What states have not adopted these standards?**

**A:** The only states that have not adopted the standards are Alaska, Texas, Nebraska and Virginia. Minnesota has adopted only the English standards.

**Q: Does this mean those states are saying they want lower-caliber schools?**

**A:** Not necessarily. In some states, the political opposition to anything from outside the state is intense. Others, such as Virginia, had recently reviewed their standards and decided to keep them in place.

**Q: Who wrote these standards?**

**A:** The National Governors Association and Council of Chief State School Officers developed the standards with help from teachers, parents and experts.



## Life & Style

# Officials: Walker crash not part of street race

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—While the neighborhood where “Fast & Furious” star Paul Walker died in a fiery crash is known to attract street racers, law enforcement officials do not believe the Porsche he and a friend were riding in had been racing another car.

Accident investigators “have received eyewitness statements that the car involved was traveling alone at a high rate of speed,” the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department said in a written statement Monday. “No eyewitness has contacted the (department) to say there was a second vehicle.”

Walker and his friend and fellow fast-car enthusiast Roger Rodas died Saturday when Rodas’ 2005 Porsche Carrera GT smashed into a light pole and tree, then exploded in flames. The posted limit was 45 mph (72.4 kph).

The two had taken what was expected to be a brief drive away from a charity fundraiser and toy drive at Rodas’ custom car shop in the Southern California community of Valencia,

about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles. Walker’s publicist said the action star was the passenger.

The crash happened on a street that forms an approximately 1-mile (1.6-kilometer) loop amid industrial office parks. It is rimmed by hills and relatively isolated from traffic, especially on weekends when the businesses are closed.

“It’s well-known out here that that’s a hot spot for street racers,” California Highway Patrol Sgt. Rick Miler said.

Skid marks are a testament to past antics on the loop. The sheriff’s department, which polices the neighborhood, said Saturday’s wreck was not the first speed-related crash there, but would not reveal specifics.

Meanwhile, investigators are



In this April 29, 2011 file photo, actor Paul Walker poses during the photo call of the movie “Fast and Furious 5,” in Rome.

consulting video from security cameras, talking to eyewitnesses and analyzing physical evidence such as on-board computer data from the Porsche.

Officials have not named either person found in the car. The bodies were so badly burned by the fire that engulfed the wreck that dental records will be needed to confirm their identities.

Walker and Rodas had bonded over their shared love of fast cars.

Rodas, 38, and Walker, 40, co-owned an auto racing team named after Rodas’ shop, Always Evolving. Rodas was a financial adviser as well as a professional driver who competed in 10 Pirelli World Challenge GTS races in 2013. He finished second in rookie of the year standings, circuit spokesman Dave Drimmie said.

Walker starred in all but one of the six “Fast & Furious” blockbusters. He had been on break from shooting the latest installment, Universal Pictures has not said what it plans to do with “Fast & Furious 7,” currently slated for a July release.

## Bruce Lee’s famous yellow jumpsuit up for auction

**HONG KONG (AP)**—Bruce Lee fans who covet the original yellow jumpsuit that the martial arts legend wore onscreen will get a chance to bid for it at a Hong Kong auction this week.

It’s part of a collection of 14 items including clothing and props going on the block on Thursday.

Lee wore the yellow suit, with black stripes down the sides, in “Game of Death.” Lee died in 1973, before the movie was finished. An incomplete version was released that year, followed by a feature-length version in 1978 cobbled together with footage filmed after his death.

Lee’s death at 32 from an allergic reaction to painkillers came at the height of his fame. The actor’s legendary kung fu skills and screen presence helped him become a global superstar and popularized martial arts films across the world. Quentin Tarantino paid homage to Lee’s jumpsuit by dressing Uma Thurman in one for his “Kill Bill” movies.

Spink auction house estimates the suit will fetch 250,000 to 300,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$32,250-\$38,700).

The jumpsuit was custom-made for Lee by a Hong Kong tailor but is smaller than its original size, having shrunk by about 15 centimeters (6 inches) when it was washed after the filming, said the auction house’s vice chairman, Anna Lee.

The auction house said Lee gave the items to his friend and former student Taky Kimura, who sold them to the collector.

Spink said the unidentified collector decided to sell the items this year, which marks the 40th anniversary of Lee’s death.

Other props from “Game of Death” to be sold include a pair of yellow lacquered wooden nunchaku expected to fetch \$26,000-\$38,700 and a bamboo whip with an estimate of \$9,000-\$10,000.

Lee said buyers will receive a certificate of authenticity from Kimura.

# The Coens abide: Joel & Ethan on refusing maturity

**NEW YORK (AP)**—“If you’re trying to assign the trait of maturity to us, frankly, it won’t wash.”

A conversation with the filmmaking brothers Ethan and Joel Coen has only just gotten started when Ethan, quite gleefully, puts a stop to any discussion of growth, evolution or development.

Now in their late 50s, the Coens have a host of awards, including best picture for their tense, bone-dry Cormac McCarthy adaptation “No Country for Old Men.” Their last film, the much Oscar-nominated Charles Portis adaptation “True Grit,” was an unexpected box-office hit, earning \$250 million worldwide. Somewhat shockingly, they are—to use the much sought-after label in their “O Brother, Where Art Thou?”—bona fide.

Their latest, the folk music tale “Inside Llewyn Davis,” continues the trend of awards-season releases with more realism than, say, the screwball of “The Hudsucker Proxy” or the surrealism of “The Big Lebowski.”

The Coens don’t dismiss the trend. They just predict its imminent expiration date.

“If you’re trying to make a developmental statement about us,” Ethan explains, “it might not ...”

“It might not stand the test of the next movie,” says Joel, finishing the sentence. They chuckle with tickled delight, like boys who are getting away with something, at the thought of their next opus. (More on that later.)

For now, there’s “Inside Llewyn Davis,” the latest zag

in a career full of wholly unpredictable hopscotching through noir (“Blood Simple,” “Miller’s Crossing”), farce (“Burn After Reading,” “The Ladykillers”) and less categorical quandaries (“A Serious Man”).

Tracking the Coens is, famously, a fool’s game. What leads them down Los Angeles

town life, which he spends hopping from couch to couch, gig to gig. The Coens, with T Bone Burnett, fill the film with full performances of less famous songs from the era, all but one of which was filmed live (rather than to playback).

On a recent fall afternoon, the Coens granted an interview with

“We were just sitting around the office talking about nothing, as we do, and (Joel) said, ‘OK, supposing it begins in an alley behind Gerde’s Folk City and somebody beats the (expletive) out of Dave Van Ronk?’” says Ethan, while Joel laughs. “That’s the beginning of what movie?”

They start most films in this unusually specific way. “Miller’s Crossing” began with a hat floating away into the woods. “Burn After Reading” started when they pronounced that they would never, ever open a film “CIA Headquarters: Langley, Virginia.” But the sheer antithesis of the idea became its greatest attraction: They peopled their version of a hyper-techno spy thriller with the most emphatically human characters.

Some openings don’t immediately lead anywhere. They had the start of “O Brother”—“three dopes chained together”—but didn’t know where it went for three or four years. “Fargo” got stuck midway: “For a year and a half, I would open up the drawer and it would say: ‘Interior: Shep’s apartment. Carl is screwing the escort,’” Joel recalls.

Often, their genre hopping is predicated more on books than movies. “Miller’s Crossing” was an attempt to do Dashiell Hammett, says Ethan. “The Man Who Wasn’t There” was self-consciously James M. Cain. “Big Lebowski” was their version of Raymond Chandler.

They were extremely faithful to the texts the two times they’ve adapted books (“True



This Sept. 28, 2013 file photo shows directors Joel Coen, right, and Ethan Coen at the premiere of “Inside Llewyn Davis” during the 51st New York Film Festival in New York.

bowling alleys? Or into a ‘50s-era barber shop? Aided by the Dave Van Ronk memoir “The Mayor of MacDougal Street,” they arrived at specifically 1960-61 Greenwich Village for “Inside Llewyn Davis” because it exists on the cusp of history, ahead of Bob Dylan’s arrival.

Oscar Isaac stars as the title character, a folk guitar player and singer whose beautiful playing is contrasted by his foul-mouthed, cynical down-

The Associated Press at their Tribeca office, a narrow three-story apartment with editors working on the bottom floor on a concert documentary of the movie’s music, to air on Showtime on Dec. 13. To accommodate a reporter, Ethan lugged a chair up to the small top-floor perch where the brothers brainstorm and script.

From here their movies are born, generated from the ping-ponging between their similarly imaginative, comic minds.



# Diane Lane and Josh Brolin's divorce finalized

**L**OS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles judge has finalized Diane Lane and Josh Brolin's divorce.

Court records show that the couple's divorce judgment was entered by a court Wednesday. The pair were married for more than eight years when they filed for divorce in February.

No details of any financial set-

tlement were filed with the court.

Lane is the star of films such as "Unfaithful" and "Under the Tuscan Sun." She had taken Brolin's last name but will no longer use it.

Brolin has starred in films such as "Gangster Squad" and "No Country for Old Men."

The former couple has no children together.

The judgment was first reported Monday by celebrity website TMZ.



In this May 23, 2012 file photo, actor Josh Brolin and wife Diane Lane arrive at the premiere of "Men in Black 3" at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York.

## 'Inside Llewyn Davis' tops Gotham Awards

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The Coen brothers' folk music tale "Inside Llewyn Davis" has won best film at the 23rd annual Gotham Independent Film Awards in New York.

The win Monday night at a glitzy ceremony was an upset. The slavery epic "12 Years a Slave" is widely considered an Oscar front-runner and had a leading three Gotham nominations but didn't take any awards.

Best actor went to Matthew McConaughey for his per-

formance in the HIV drama "Dallas Buyer's Club." Brie Larsen took best actress for her performance in the foster care drama "Short Term 12."

Steve Buscemi presented a posthumous tribute to his "Sopranos" co-star James Gandolfini.

The Gotham awards are presented by the Independent Filmmaker Project, an advocacy group for independent filmmakers. Awards are selected by juries.

## Ryan O'Neal testifies about disputed Warhol art

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Ryan O'Neal told a jury Monday that he owns an Andy Warhol portrait of Farrah Fawcett and it was not a secret that he had removed the artwork from her home after her death.

"The painting is mine," the Oscar-nominated actor testified during a lawsuit filed by the University of Texas at Austin to determine ownership of the portrait done in 1980.

The university claims Fawcett left the painting to the school as part of a donation of her artwork.

O'Neal said Warhol created the portrait after shooting Polaroid photos of the actress and adding splashes of color to an otherwise monochrome canvas.

The artist created two versions of the portrait—one that currently remains over O'Neal's bed at his Malibu beach house and another that is on display at the university's Blanton Museum of Art in Austin.

O'Neal said Warhol asked him in 1980 whether Fawcett would be interested in being the subject of a portrait and that she agreed. The actor said he requested two versions since he and Fawcett kept separate homes.

He said Warhol made the portrait within two weeks of a brief photo shoot with Fawcett in his New York studio.

"It didn't take long," O'Neal, 72, said. "Doing her hair took longer than taking the pictures."

David Beck, an attorney for the University of Texas, challenged O'Neal, suggesting Warhol approached Fawcett directly about the portrait session during a luncheon in Houston in 1980.

Beck said there was no mention in a journal kept by

O'Neal about a deal with Warhol. The actor said some of his journal from that time period had been lost.

O'Neal's testimony was at times testy and emotional, with the actor nearly breaking down when he read a letter Fawcett wrote to the couple's son, Redmond.

After Beck asked O'Neal to read passages from his 2012 memoir "Both of Us," the actor tersely offered to sign a copy for the lawyer.

Beck also questioned O'Neal about a 1997 incident in which Fawcett caught O'Neal in bed with another woman. The lawyer has contended that changed the pair's relationship and by the following year, the Warhol portrait that hung over O'Neal's bed was moved to the home of the actress.

O'Neal said he asked Fawcett to take the portrait because it was making his new girlfriend uncomfortable. The portrait remained with Fawcett until her death in June 2009. She had a Warhol portrait in her living room and the other at her bedroom door.

After Fawcett's death, O'Neal returned to the condominium and removed the portrait outside her bedroom.

Beck questioned whether the actor ever discussed removing the portrait with anyone, including a trustee charged with carrying out Fawcett's final wishes.

"Of course I did," O'Neal said. "I'm sure I did. It wasn't a secret."

The university sued the "Love Story" star in 2011 seeking the Warhol artwork that its attorneys have said the school wants to display with its twin in the Blanton museum.

## 'Singin' in the Rain' suit goes up for auction

**DALLAS** (AP)—A memorabilia collector is selling the gray wool suit Gene Kelly wore as he joyously danced in a downpour in the Hollywood musical "Singin' in the Rain."

The suit is expected to sell for more than \$20,000 when Heritage Auctions offers it up Friday in Dallas. Memorabilia collector Gerry Sola has had the suit for more than four decades after buying it for \$10 at a 1970 sale of MGM props and wardrobe items following the sale of the studio to financier Kirk Kerkorian.

"I think it's one of these pieces that people are really excited to see go up on the block," said Margaret Barrett, director of the entertainment and music memorabilia department at Heritage Auctions. "Even if you've never seen this movie, you probably know the scene. You've seen Gene Kelly dancing around, singing in the rain, swinging on that lamp post."

Sola, a retired postal worker, had traveled from his home in Northern California to Los Angeles for the 1970 MGM sale, which progressed from an auction to a garage sale of sorts with racks of clothing for sale.

"If there was one thing in my life I could do again, I'd love to go to that auction again. It was the most exciting thing to ever happen to me," Sola said.

Sola said that he was sorting through racks of clothing

when he ran across the gray suit marked as Kelly's and had a feeling it was the one from the famous scene in the 1952 musical. The jacket's inside breast pocket has an MGM label with Kelly's name and the production number.

"The inside jacket, the lin-



In this undated file photo, Gene Kelly performs in the 1952 film "Singin' in the Rain."

ing, was all water stained," Sola said. "I said, 'Oh, I know what that is!' So I bought it."

Sola, who has stored the suit in his closet over the decades, said he decided it was time to sell.

"I've had it for over 40 years. I'm getting older. It's time to kind of let this stuff go," said Sola, 72.

At the entertainment and music auction Friday, Sola also is offering another suit worn by Kelly in "Singin' in the Rain" that he bought for \$75 during the auction portion of the sale. That suit, made of plaid wool that features knickers, is expected to sell for about \$6,000.

## Woman in unhappy relationship should cut her losses and go

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my fiance since 2006. We expected to be married in 2008, but my grandmother died a month before my wedding, and then he was arrested because of charges stemming from a sexual relationship he'd had with a 17-year-old girl he had been counseling.

Since then, we have had a daughter, but through it all there has been cheating, drugs, jail, no job, and constant excuses about why our sex life no longer exists. We have also had physical altercations, which he was arrested for.

I am no longer happy with this relationship. The only reason I stay is because of our children. I'm only 33 and don't want to live my life in misery anymore, but I will sacrifice my happiness for my children. I am confused and don't know what to do. I'm just going through the motions in life. I work full time, coach my son's soccer team and am living with MS.

He does help somewhat, but it would be better if he would get a job. My mother watches my kids while I am working and after they get out of school. He claims because he doesn't have a driver's license he can't get a job. Really? How many people in this world don't drive and still have a job? Please give me some advice. I have reached my breaking point.

DOING THE BEST I CAN

**DEAR DOING THE BEST YOU CAN:** You say you are willing to sacrifice your happiness with this loser for your children. Why? You are not married to him, and he is emotionally neglectful, physically abusive and contributes nothing financially. Admit to yourself that the "romance" has been a mistake, and as soon as it's safe, get away from him. If he ever finds a job, the state will help you collect child support, but if he doesn't, you'll have one less mouth to feed.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My mom insists on including my ex-husband and his wife at our family gatherings. I have told her repeatedly that it makes me very uncomfortable, but she even included them in the gift exchange last Christmas. What should I do? Not go?

My sister has already laid a guilt trip on me. Must I go and have Christmas with my ex like we're one big happy family? (If we had been happy, we would not have gotten divorced.) What are your thoughts on this?

LIVING IN DYSFUNCTION JUNCTION

**DEAR LIVING:** If you and your ex were married for a long time, I can see why your mother might consider him still part of the family and want to include him. However, out of consideration for your feelings, it should be on a limited basis—not every holiday. (Could she be trying to punish you because she blames you for the divorce?)

Because it would make you uncomfortable and your mother knows it, make plans to do something you WOULD enjoy—perhaps a trip out of town to be with friends or to a different climate. And please, don't feel guilty if you do—regardless of what your sister says.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: What do you say to your only son who can't even call to tell you he is getting married? He posted it on Facebook, and I was notified via a text from my sister.

Our relationship isn't the issue. He just doesn't seem to be able to use his phone for TALKING. Your thoughts?

OUTSIDE THE LOOP IN OREGON

**DEAR OUTSIDE THE LOOP:** Because your son seems oblivious to the fact that news of this kind should be conveyed to the immediate family personally rather than in a "bulletin," EXPLAIN to him how it made you feel to receive the news the way you did. He owes you an apology.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

40 Fallon's employer

5 Inst. of learning (on)

8 Catch sight of

12 You, old-style

13 Sigma follower

14 Citi Field fore-runner

15 Descent in dignity

17 Hen pen

18 Connec-tion

19 Royal headgear

21 Droop

22 Flock

23 Letter-man's employer

26 Once around

28 Rock

31 Aahs' mates

33 Vim and vigor

35 Bat a gnat

36 Sac

38 Joan of —

**DOWN**

1 Need to

2 "Scram!"

3 Note to self

4 Looks for

5 Makeshift

6 Crow's comment

7 Intuitive feeling

8 Stags' lacks

9 Confron-tation

10 Lowly worker

11 Shrill barks

16 Two-way

20 Scale

23 Officer

24 Greet the villain

25 Factory closing

27 Shell game

29 Appre-hend

30 Handy pc. of Latin

32 Overly thin

34 Difficulty

37 Stolen

39 Fringe group

42 Object (to)

44 Wild West show

45 Recipe meas.

46 Sandwich cookie

48 1/3 of a WWII movie title

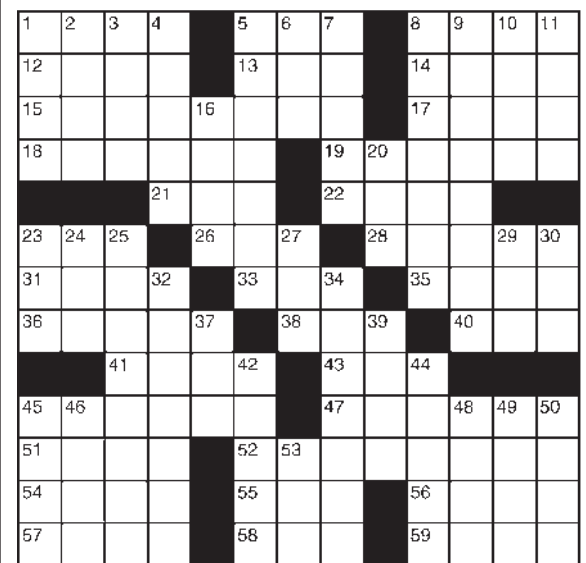
49 Foolish sort

50 Change for a five

53 Kreskin's claim

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

O	P	E	D	A	M	A	C	H	E	T
D	O	D	O	H	E	R	R	E	A	R
I	C	E	C	H	E	A	M	E	L	S
N	O	N	O	A	T	G	A	M	E	S
P	A	I	O	N	S	A	D	P	A	M
P	A	I	O	N	S	A	D	P	A	M
E	G	A	D	T	U	X	O	N	U	S
P	A	J	A	M	A	S	A	D	A	M
W	A	X	S	P	A					
R	E	L	A	X	L	I	S	I	D	O
O	M	I	T	W	A	T	E	R	B	E
D	I	R	E	M	U	N	I	C	E	
S	T	A	R	T	A	P	A	S	K	S



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Tyra Banks, 40; Jay-Z, 44; Marisa Tomei, 49; Jeff Bridges, 64.

**Happy Birthday:** Concentrate on whatever will get you to the finish line and you will prosper. A chance to do something really important will raise your profile and enable you to make a difference to a cause or concern that interests you. Show empathy and tenacity and you will drum up whatever you need to make things happen. Your numbers are 6, 10, 23, 27, 34, 40, 42.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Take a break and clear your head regarding personal and professional situations that are costing you. Re-address whatever situation you face so you can make a change that will help distance you from anyone causing you grief. \*\*

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Love, family and gatherings will lift your spirits. Make romantic plans or focus on a creative endeavor that excites you. Your generosity with older friends or relatives will be appreciated and bring you unexpected benefits. Travel plans can be made. \*\*\*\*\*

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Make changes that will help a friend or support an organization you believe in. Trust in what you know and can do but not in what someone else promises you. Do your own thing and refuse to let anyone dismantle your plans. \*\*\*

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Set your goals and head to the finish line. This can turn out to be a highly auspicious period for you with regard to love, money and contracts if

you make decisions based on your personal needs. Take action and make things happen. \*\*\*

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let personal matters stand between you and your professional responsibilities. Get down to business and consider offers that have the potential to change your course in life. Embrace challenge but keep demands at arm's length. \*\*\*

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Socializing, networking or wheeling and dealing in order to get what you want should highlight your day. Do your research and make your choices based on facts and figures. You can win if you are pragmatic and well-informed. \*\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sit back and watch what others do and say. Avoid being pulled into something you really don't want to be part of. Change can be good, but it must be based on your needs, not what everyone else wants. Ulterior motives are present. \*\*

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Organization will lead to victory. An opportunity to work alongside someone you admire will help you grow personally, and raise your interest in following through with your own goals. Love and romance are highlighted and travel plans look promising. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Check out the possibilities and consider ways to advance, but don't step on someone's toes. You are likely to get into a debate if you have not been mindful of others. Make personal changes at home and avoid discord. \*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Step into the spotlight and make the alterations that will ensure your success. Your ability to get things done will encourage others to step up and lend you a hand. A money deal will bring you good fortune and more opportunities. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): False information is apparent. Speak on your own behalf. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. Use charm and intelligence to get out of a sticky situation. Focus on work and earning more, along with building a secure home base. \*\*\*

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Deals can be made and financial benefits put into place. Let your intuition lead you to new and exciting ventures that are based on knowledge and know-how you have acquired in the past. Revamp and resubmit a project with pride. \*\*\*\*\*

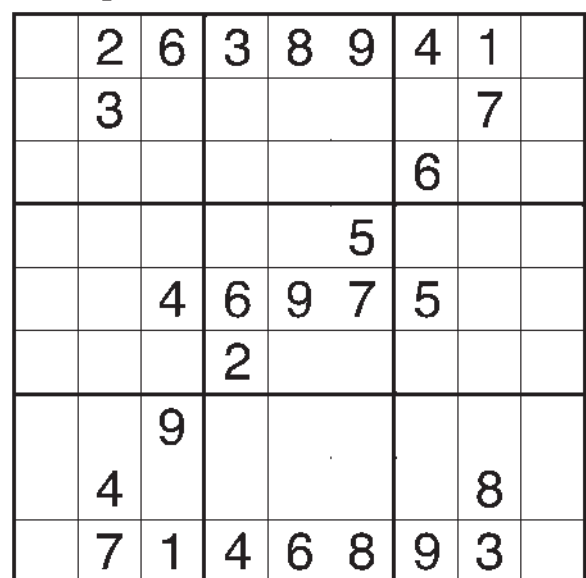
**Birthday Baby:** You are astute, industrious and curious. You are open-minded and intense.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

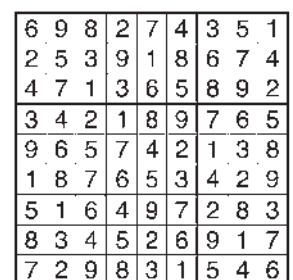


Difficulty Level ★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level \*\*

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DOONESBURY Solution: 8 letters



©2013 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook

Alex, Andy, Asterisk, Barbara, Boopsie, Brenner, Butts, Carlton, Caucus, Clyde, Daily, Daisy, Doppelganger, Duke, Earl, Feather, Garry, Harris, Hippie, Humor, Joanie, Joe, King, Lacey, Mark, Press, Rick, Roland, Rosenthal, Schwarzman, Skip, Slackmeyer, Slate, Stetson, Strip, Student, Thudpucker, Trudeau, Uncle, Waldeen, Yale, Zeke, Zipper, Zonker

Yesterday's Answer: Outdoor  
The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2 is here for the holidays! Purchase online at [wonderword.universalclick.com](http://wonderword.universalclick.com) or call 1-800-642-6463. (Contains 100 puzzles.)







URGENT HIRE

(1) General Maintenance Worker  
(1) Cook  
Salary: \$5.55/hr with 2 years experience.

O2 Scuba & Resort, Inc.  
Call: 322-0102, or  
E-mail: o2scuba@hanmisaipan.com

American K&W Corporation  
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
(1) **Manager** - Salary: \$1,000.00 p/m  
(1) **Assistant Manager** - Salary: \$5.55p/h  
(2) **Kitchen Helper** - Salary: \$5.55p/h  
High School graduate. 3-5 years experience. Knowledge in Chinese and Japanese languages a plus.  
If interested, email thomaschong@gmail.com

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Accounting Clerk -Atleast 2 yrs. experience. Proficient in various computer software, such as MS Excel, Word, Peach Tree & other Accounting Softwares.  
Submit Applications To:  
Saipan Apparel Printing, LLC. (670)235-1680


Sheu's Brothers Holding Co. LTD  
P.O. Box 502997 Saipan, MP 96950

Job Vacancy Announcement

**(1) Inventory Clerk**  
Salary \$5.55/hr. 3 years experience. Flexible working hours. Japanese/Chinese speaking a plus.  
If interested, email thomastchong@gmail.com

**Warehouse for RENT**  
**REM GUALO RAI**  
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft  
\$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable  
**REM LOWERBASE**  
Warehouse #4 - Size: 9,000sq/ft  
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft  
\$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable  
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL  
235-6527/26 or 285-1317

**Job Vacancy Announcement**  
(1) Yard Maintenance/Landscaper \$5.55/hr  
Must have a minimum of 1 year related job experience. Capable of operating and maintaining yard equipments, such as, lawn mower, bush cutter, and etc.  
Interested applicant please call  
J.T. Seman at 287-9080  
Seman Inc.



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

JVA No. 13-056

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

**Trades Technician**  
(Operator)

**DUTIES:** Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Operate and maintain plant and equipment. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Performs control room operations and load dispatch. Monitor and balance generator and feeder loads. Start up and synchronize generator sets. Monitoring lubrication oil and fuel consumption. Check and monitor engine oil and cooling water temperatures and pressures. Check and monitor bearing, exhaust gas and charge air temperatures. Record readings and report generator and feeder trips to plant management. Prepare switching programs and coordinate distribution line switching for plant and field staff. Monitoring loads on feeders and generators. Incinerating used oil and carry out SPCC plan routine work. Perform preventive maintenance and overhauls on plant and equipment. Troubleshoot and rectify faults on plant and equipment. Test and calibrate equipment. Condition monitoring and routine testing of generators, transformers and motors. Perform housekeeping duties. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION : Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)

SALARY : \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.


POSITIONS : Six (6).

CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible and proven experience in the trade—in this case operator. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in assigned service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

JVA No. 13-057

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

**Trades Technician**  
(Mechanic)

**DUTIES:** Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Operate and maintain plant and equipment. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Performs control room operations and load dispatch. Monitor and balance generator and feeder loads. Start up and synchronize generator sets. Monitoring lubrication oil and fuel consumption. Check and monitor engine oil and cooling water temperatures and pressures. Check and monitor bearing, exhaust gas and charge air temperatures. Record readings and report generator and feeder trips to plant management. Prepare switching programs and coordinate distribution line switching for plant and field staff. Monitoring loads on feeders and generators. Incinerating used oil and carry out SPCC plan routine work. Perform preventive maintenance and overhauls on plant and equipment. Troubleshoot and rectify faults on plant and equipment. Test and calibrate equipment. Condition monitoring and routine testing of generators, transformers and motors. Perform housekeeping duties. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION : Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)

SALARY : \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.


POSITIONS : Ten (10)

CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case mechanic. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in assigned service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

JVA No. 13-058

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

**Trades Technician**  
(Electrician)

**DUTIES:** Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Operate and maintain plant and equipment. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Performs control room operations and load dispatch. Monitor and balance generator and feeder loads. Start up and synchronize generator sets. Monitoring lubrication oil and fuel consumption. Check and monitor engine oil and cooling water temperatures and pressures. Check and monitor bearing, exhaust gas and charge air temperatures. Record readings and report generator and feeder trips to plant management. Prepare switching programs and coordinate distribution line switching for plant and field staff. Monitoring loads on feeders and generators. Incinerating used oil and carry out SPCC plan routine work. Perform preventive maintenance and overhauls on plant and equipment. Troubleshoot and rectify faults on plant and equipment. Test and calibrate equipment. Condition monitoring and routine testing of generators, transformers and motors. Perform housekeeping duties. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION : Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)

SALARY : \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.


POSITIONS : Three (3).

CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case electrical. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in assigned service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

JVA No. 13-059

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

**Stipulated Order II Project Coordinator**

**DUTIES** - The Project Coordinator (PC) is under the supervision of the Petroleum and Compliance Manger (also known as the Technical Manager for Oil) or their designee. Position will be primarily responsible for oversight of assigned projects and compliance activities including, but not limited to, oil management in support of the Stipulated Order (SO) of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marian Islands. The PC will assist the Petroleum and Compliance Manager in overseeing aspects of oil spill prevention, preparedness and response operations and compliance activities and deliverables on a daily basis, as required by stipulated order. The PC may also function as the Acting Petroleum and Compliance during the absence or non-availability of the Petroleum and Compliance Manager and may be assigned responsibility for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding section 311 Clean Water Act compliance issues, including some representation in the US Federal court and before other regulatory agencies. In the absence of the Petroleum and Compliance Manager, PC may have authority to make decisions for the management and operations of oil related items required by stipulated order. These examples of duties are not exhaustive, and the incumbent may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility.

LOCATION : Petroleum and Compliance Office, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY : Based on credentials and specialized experience \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 per annum.

POSITIONS : One (1).

CONTRACT : Two-year

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: A bachelor’s degree or its equivalent in engineering or natural science. (An equivalent is an associate’s degree and two years of direct oil experience; these two years are in addition to that detailed below.) Plus the following:

• 10 years in project administration and management, including overseeing work of contractors and company staff in an executive management position with proven management and communication skills.

• A minimum of three (3) years’ experience with in oil spill, prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment related to power plant operations, and knowledge of DEQ and EPA regulations.

• 5 years of experience in preparing bid or request for quotations and proposals.

• 5 years of experience in contract negotiation and preparation.


**Desirable:**

• Prior experience of staff training and development.

• Certification in API tank inspection.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

JVA No. 13-060

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

**Assistant Petroleum and Compliance Manager**

**DUTIES** – The Assistant Petroleum and Compliance Manger (“AM”) shall work under the supervision of the Petroleum and Compliance Manger (also known as the Technical Manager for Oil) or his/her designee. Position shall be primarily responsible for oversight of projects and compliance activities including, but not limited to, oil management in support of the Stipulated Order (SO) of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marian Islands. The AM shall assist the Petroleum and Compliance Manager in overseeing all oil spill prevention, preparedness and response operations, compliance activities and project deliverables on a daily basis, as required by stipulated order. The AM shall also function as the Acting Petroleum and Compliance Manager during the absence or non-availability of the Petroleum and Compliance Manager and will be the person responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding section 311 Clean Water Act compliance, including representation in the US Federal court and before other regulatory agencies. The Petroleum and Compliance Manager my delegate authority to the AM during their absence including authority to make decisions for the management and operations of oil related items required by stipulated order. These examples of duties are not exhaustive, and the incumbent may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility.

LOCATION : Petroleum and Compliance Office, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY : Based on credentials and specialized experience \$55,000.00 to \$74,989.00 per annum.

POSITIONS : One (1).

CONTRACT : Two-year.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

• A bachelor’s degree in engineering or natural science.

• 10 years in project administration and management, including overseeing work of contractors and company staff in an executive management position with proven management and communication skills.

• A minimum of three (3) years’ experience in oil spill, prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment related to power plant operations, and extensive knowledge of DEQ and EPA regulations.

• 5 years of experience in preparing bid documents or request for quotations and proposals.

• 5 years of experience in contract negotiation and preparation.

**Desirable:**

• Prior experience of staff training and development.

• Master’s degree in engineering and registration as professional engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in civil, mechanical, environmental or chemical engineering.

• Certification in API tank inspection.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT



# Seahawks beat Saints 34-7 to clinch playoff spot



SEATTLE (AP)—The rest of the top NFC teams better get ready to visit the Pacific Northwest in

January. After Monday night's rout, the road through the NFC playoffs is almost certain to go through Seattle.

Russell Wilson threw for 310 yards and three touchdowns, and the Seattle Seahawks became the first team to clinch a spot in the NFC playoffs with a 34-7 victory over the New Orleans Saints on Monday night.

More important than just clinching a spot in the post-season, the Seahawks (11-1) moved two games ahead on the rest of the NFC in the race for home-field advantage and hold the tiebreakers over New Orleans (9-3) and Carolina (9-3), the two closest pursuers.

Wilson was outstanding, picking apart the Saints' defense. He threw touchdown passes of 2 yards to Zach Miller and 4 yards to Doug Baldwin in the first half as Seattle built a 27-7 lead. Wilson added a pin-ball 8-yard TD pass to Derrick Coleman in the third quarter.

"Attention to details is where it's at," Wilson said. "We had a great balanced attack. We made some huge plays."

Michael Bennett had a 22-yard fumble return for a touchdown in the first quarter to give Seattle a 10-0 lead and the Saints never threatened. It was a dominating performance by the Seahawks, making up for a lackluster effort the last time they were given a national television spotlight and were taken



Seattle Seahawks' defensive end Michael Bennett returns a fumble for a touchdown against the New Orleans Saints in the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 2, 2013, in Seattle.

to the final yard and final play by St. Louis.

Not this time. The most anticipated game in the NFC this season was a laughter.

Wilson completed 22 of 30 passes and finished with a quarterback rating of 139.6. He has 22 regular-season wins in his first two seasons, tied for the

most ever by a second-year QB.

Drew Brees and the Saints were stymied the entire night as he lost for the first time on Monday night after nine straight wins, and continued the belief New Orleans can't win outdoors late in the season. New Orleans didn't crack 100 yards of total offense into midway

through the third quarter. Jimmy Graham was nearly invisible outside of his franchise-record 12th TD catch of the season in the second quarter that pulled the Saints to 17-7.

Brees finished 23 of 38 for 147 yards. Graham had three catches for 42 yards. Darren Sproles led New Orleans with

secondary. The Seahawks were without Brandon Browner (injury) and Walter Thurmond (suspension) but Byron Maxwell and Jeremy Lane played well in their places. The Saints couldn't find way to exploit the backups and the pressure from Seattle's defensive line had Brees rushing his throws much of the night.

"We try to make it about us playing disciplined, sound football. Everybody do their assignment and we should be good," Seattle cornerback Richard Sherman said. "And that's what we did tonight."

Seattle used the bye week to add wrinkles to its offense. Wilson was a threat not only passing but running with the zone read again becoming an addition to the playbook. Wilson carried five times in the first half, three of those designed keepers.

But it was his passing that stole the show. Wilson was 14 of 19 in the first half for 226 yards and a rating of 148.1. It was the second time in three games Wilson threw for at least 200 yards in the first half.

He found Miller open for a 60-yard catch-and-run to convert a third-and-1 early in the second quarter, then capped

## Broncos' Fox back at work after heart surgery

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Denver Broncos coach John Fox returned to work Monday, four weeks after open-heart surgery, his newfound energy matching his renowned enthusiasm.

"I feel tremendous. As my surgeon said, I had a valve that was the size of a pinhead and now it's the size of a 50-cent piece," Fox said. "Obviously, the doctors feel good about me getting back to work. I actually would have preferred to be back sooner, but there was a pretty hard deadline of four weeks post-surgery and I honored that and here I am."

Truth is, Fox has been telecommuting for weeks.

As soon as he was released

from the hospital after having his aortic valve repaired, a surgery he had hoped to put off until after the Super Bowl, Fox set up a sort of command center at his off-season home in Charlotte, N.C., some 200 yards from the spot on the golf course where he fell ill on Nov. 2 during the Broncos' bye.

Not only was he in daily contact with defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio, who guided the Broncos (10-2) to three wins in four games during his absence, but Fox was also in constant communication with his captains, including quarterback Peyton Manning, over the toughest stretch of Denver's season.

## NFL: Officials erred at end of Sunday night game

NEW YORK (AP)—Redskins coach Mike Shanahan spoke Monday with the NFL's director of officiating after the league said Sunday night's crew made an error on Washington's final drive.

The league said officials should have stopped play and eliminated confusion about the down and distance at the end of the Giants' 24-17 victory at Washington.

"I talked to Dean earlier today, he gave me a call and just went over the scenario," Shanahan said, referring to Dean Blandino, who oversees NFL officiating. "Obviously they made a mistake and you live with it."

With New York leading by seven points just after the two-minute warning, a catch by the Redskins' Pierre Garcon on second-and-5 was spotted short of a first down at the Washington 45. Referee Jeff Triplette signaled third down. But the head linesman, with the Redskins in a hurry-up offense, incorrectly motioned for the crew to advance the chains, which caused the down boxes to read first down.

"In this situation where there is obvious confusion as to the status of the down, that play should have been stopped prior to third down and the correct down communicated to both clubs," Blandino said Monday in a statement. "This should have occurred regardless of the fact that Washington had no timeouts and it was inside two minutes."

Only the referee can rule and signal a first down. The official nearest to the down markers and chain crew, the head linesman,

is required to wait for that first-down signal from the referee before moving the chains. That did not happen at FedEx Field.

After Washington's incomplete pass on the next play—which many Redskins believed was on first down—the chains were moved back and the down boxes correctly reset to fourth down.

Blandino said instant replay review was not used on Garcon's catch because the replay official determined the ball was "correctly spotted short of the line to gain for a first down."

Shanahan was asked if he would be in favor of scrapping the chains and using laser technology to help spot the ball.

"You talk about it at the owners' meeting, kind of go through the variables, exactly how accurate it is and how it would be implemented," he said. "I think there's a lot of technology that you could possibly use, but before you do that you go through all the situations and find out if it's effective and how effective."

Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III said the confusion affected the play calling.

"The chain said first down, and then when we came back, we think it's second-and-10, and they're yelling out it's fourth down," Griffin said. "No explanation. No measurement. Didn't stop the clock to allow the chains to move back. And we just had to go ahead and call the play."

Griffin did complete a 6-yard pass to Garcon on fourth-and-1, but safety Will

Hill stripped the ball. The Giants then ran out the clock.

"I told him I wanted a measurement because I knew it was close," Shanahan said, not specifying which official he was referring to. "It was inches. And he said, 'No, it's a first down.' And he moved the chains. And then after I saw it was fourth down, I asked him, 'You already told me it was first down.' He didn't say anything. So that was quite disappointing."

Speaking to a pool reporter Sunday night, Triplette said: "We signaled third down on the field. The stakes were moved incorrectly. After that play, we said it was still third down. We had signaled third down prior to the play starting. The stakes just got moved incorrectly."

Triplette defended not stopping play, saying it would have given an "unfair advantage." But Blandino said Monday that was the wrong decision.

Giants defensive end Justin Tuck, who played every snap, said he was aware it was not a first down.

"I remember turning to the referee and saying, 'That's not a first down,'" Tuck said Monday. "Obviously, they're hurrying up, you don't really have time to argue it."

"I think at the end of the day, it was actually the right call. It might not have come across in the right manner, but I think it was the right call. And when the ball is getting snapped that fast, it's very tough for a referee to get all of these calls right."

seven catches, many of those check downs. The seven points were tied for the fewest scored by the Saints since Sean Payton became coach in 2006 and the 188 total yards were the fewest in his coaching tenure.

"Lot of things to look at," Payton said. "Lot of things we didn't do well."

The Saints went three-and-out on their first possession and that was just the start of their struggles. On their next possession, Brees was hit from behind by Cliff Avril and fumbled into the arms of Bennett, who returned it for the touchdown.

Brees was unable to take advantage of Seattle's depleted

the drive with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Miller and a 17-0 lead. Wilson later hit Doug Baldwin for 52 yards. Seattle had seven pass completions of 12 or more yards in the first half. The Seahawks finished with 315 first-half yards, the most allowed by the Saints in a first half since 2005 against Minnesota.

Wilson's night was so good, his passes that should have been incompletions ended up becoming touchdowns. Facing second-and-goal from the Saints 8, Wilson threw a pass intended for reserve tight end Kellen Davis. The ball deflected to Coleman for a score.



# Duncan's jumper lifts Spurs over Hawks, 102-100

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tim Duncan made a jumper with 0.4 seconds left to lift the San Antonio Spurs to a 102-100 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Monday night.

Duncan finished with 23 points and 21 rebounds as San Antonio dominated the middle against the younger and more athletic Atlanta front court. Boris Diaw had 16 points and Tiago Splitter finished with 11.

Atlanta had all five starters score in double figures. Jeff Teague had 19 points, Al Horford added 18 and DeMarre Carroll finished with 17.

The Hawks trailed 98-94 when Paul Millsap made a 3-pointer over Diaw with 17.5 seconds remaining. Manu Ginobili then made a pair of free throws for the Spurs, but Teague drained a 3 over Kawhi Leonard to tie it at 100 with 4.7 seconds left.

Curling off a pick, Duncan drained a jumper near the free-throw line to put San Antonio ahead to stay. Millsap's desperation jumper hit the side of the backboard.

Tony Parker added 15 points for the Spurs. Marco Belinelli had 13 and Ginobili finished with 10.

There were 20 lead changes and 17 ties in a game with almost identical schemes. Atlanta is coached by former longtime San Antonio assistant Mike Budenholzer.

The Spurs returned to their ball-sharing ways after they struggled on offense in a loss to Houston.

Nine of the 10 Spurs who played in the first half scored. Danny Green didn't score until there was 2:54 remaining in the game, but it proved to be a critical basket. He drained a jumper just before the shot clock expired to give San Antonio a 94-87 lead.



San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan (21) scores over Atlanta Hawks' Paul Millsap, left, Jeff Teague (0) and Al Horford, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Dec. 2, 2013, in San Antonio.

## Pelicans 131, Bulls 128, 3OT

In Chicago, Jrue Holiday made a three-point play with 2.6 seconds remaining in the third overtime Monday night, giving New Orleans the victory over Chicago.

Holiday had 19 points and 12 assists for the Pelicans. He made an 18-footer with 3.9 seconds remaining in regulation to tie the score at 103 and force overtime.

Ryan Anderson had a career-high 36 points on 12-of-20 shooting, including 7 for 11 on 3-pointers. Eric Gordon added 23 points for New Orleans.

Luol Deng led the Bulls with 37 points and also had eight rebounds and seven assists.

## Trail blazers 106, Pacers 102

In Portland, Oregon, LaMarcus Aldridge had 28 points and 10 rebounds and Damian Lillard finished with 26 points to help Portland end Indiana's seven-game winning.

Paul George had a career-high 43 points for Pacers (16-2), who own the NBA's best record.

The Blazers pulled in front until early in the fourth quarter but the Pacers kept it close, and George hit consecutive 3-pointers that narrowed it to 98-96 with 1:37 left. Lillard answered with a 3-pointer and Nicolas Batum made a pair of free throws for the Blazers before George hit another 3-pointer that got Indiana within 103-99 with 21 seconds to go.

Lillard hit free throws and George made yet another 3 with 10 seconds to go to make it 105-102, but the Pacers couldn't get closer.

The Blazers have won 13 of their last 14 games.

## Jazz 109, Rockets 103

In Salt Lake City, Marvin Williams scored five points in the final two minutes and Gordon Hayward broke out of a shooting slump to score 29 points as Utah beat Houston to earn its first back-to-back wins of the season.

With Utah clinging to a 101-98 lead, Williams stole James Harden's pass and raced down for a dunk with 2 minutes left. Williams then hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 59 seconds to go to boost the lead to 108-100.

Rookie Trey Burke posted career highs of 21 points and six assists for Utah, which shot 54 percent and made 10 of 17 from beyond the arc.

Harden had 15 of his season-best 37 points in the fourth quarter to keep the Rockets close, but they couldn't get enough defensive stops.

Dwight Howard had 15 points as Houston lost for only the second time in its last 10 games.

## Wizards 98, Magic 80

In Washington, Trevor Ariza scored 24 points and John Wall had 16 points and 13 assists as Washington beat Orlando to get to .500 in the standings for the first time since it split its first four games of the 2009-10 season.

Nene scored 14 points and Marcin Gortat finished with 13 for Washington (9-9).

With top scorer Bradley Beal out of the lineup for the fifth straight game due to injury, Ariza supplied the offense, hitting 8 of 9 from the field, including four 3-pointers.

Arron Afflalo scored 21 points for Orlando, and Victor Oladipo added 13 points and six rebounds.

# Doug Fister dealt to Nats, Jim Johnson to A's

NEW YORK (AP)—On a night usually dominated by news of players let loose, the Washington Nationals and Oakland Athletics filled pitching needs with trades.

Washington obtained right-hander Doug Fister from Detroit for infielder Steve Lombardozzi and left-handers Robbie Ray and Ian Krol on Monday. Oakland acquired closer Jim Johnson from Baltimore for infielder Jemile Weeks and a player to be named.

Fister was 14-9 with a 3.67 ERA last season for the AL Central champions, who last month traded slugging first baseman Prince Fielder to Texas for second baseman Ian Kinsler.

"It gives us some flexibility for some other things we want to do," Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski said, insisting the trade wasn't made to free money for a long-term deal

for AL Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer, who can leave after next season.

Fister joins a talented Nationals rotation that already includes Stephen Strasburg, Jordan Zimmermann and Gio Gonzalez.

Oakland, which also closed in on a \$22 million, two-year contract with left-hander Scott Kazmir, is revamping after losing to the Tigers in the AL division series.

The 30-year-old Johnson led the majors with 51 saves in 2012 and tied for the big league lead last season with 50. The two-time AL West champion A's found their closer to replace All-Star Grant Balfour, who became a free agent after the season and is expected to command a multiyear deal.

Meanwhile, 43 players became free agents at midnight EST when their teams failed to offer 2014 contracts, a group

that included 2009 NL Rookie of the Year Chris Coghlan (Miami) and St. Louis reliever John Axford.

Clubs often use the so-called tender deadline as leverage to force agreements with players they won't go to arbitration with. Among the players let loose were Toronto catcher J.P. Arencibia, Boston right-hander Andrew Bailey and outfielder Ryan Kalish, Mets right-hander Jeremy Hefner, Yankees infielder Jayson Nix, Tampa Bay outfielder Sam Fuld and Kansas City infielder Chris Getz.

The Los Angeles Angels gained nearly \$10 million of payroll flexibility, declining to offer contracts to pitchers Tommy Hanson, Jerome Williams and Juan Gutierrez along with third baseman Chris Nelson.

With an excess of catching after reaching an agree-

ment to sign Brian McCann, the New York Yankees traded Chris Stewart to Pittsburgh for a player to be named, and Stewart agreed to a \$1 million, one-year deal with the Pirates. The Yankees also finalized a \$5 million, two-year contract with shortstop Brendan Ryan, who became their starter in September when Derek Jeter went back on the disabled list.

Kazmir's deal with Oakland is pending a physical, a person said, speaking of anonymity because the team hadn't finalized the contract. The 29-year-old left-hander went 10-9 with a 4.04 ERA in 29 starts and 158 innings last season for Cleveland and becomes part of a rotation that includes Sonny Gray and A.J. Griffin. The Athletics probably won't pursue a new deal for 40-year-old Bartolo Colon, an 18-game winner.

Utilityman Willie Bloomquist agreed to return to Seattle pending a physical expected to take place later this week, a baseball official with knowledge of the deal said, also speaking on condition of anonymity because the agreement wasn't final. Bloomquist spent his first seven big league seasons with Seattle and the past three with Arizona. He hit .317 for the Diamondbacks this year but had just 139 at-bats.

Catcher Dioner Navarro agreed to an \$8 million, two-year contract with Toronto that pays \$3 million next year and \$5 million in 2015. The 29-year-old batted .300 with a career-high 13 homers and 34 RBIs in 89 games for the Chicago Cubs last season. An All-Star in 2008, he has not played more than 89 games in a season since 2009 because of injuries.

Another catcher, Jose Molina, agreed to a \$4.5 million, two-year contract to remain with the Tampa Bay Rays.

Thirteen players eligible for arbitration agreed to one-year deals: San Diego left-hander Eric Stults (\$2.75 million) and right-hander Tim Stauffer (\$1.6 million); Baltimore outfielders Nolan Reimold (\$1,025,000) and Steve Pearce (\$850,000); Atlanta left-hander Jonny Venters and infielder Ramiro Pena; Washington right-hander Ross Ohlendorf (\$1.25 million); Detroit outfielder Don Kelly (\$1 million); Chicago White Sox catcher Tyler Flowers (\$950,000); Philadelphia first baseman Kevin Frandsen (\$900,000); Oakland right-hander Fernando Rodriguez (\$600,000); and Cleveland right-handers Frank Herrmann and Blake Wood (\$560,000 each);

In agreements announced Friday, the Los Angeles Dodgers reached deals with outfielder Mike Baxter and catcher Drew Butera (\$700,000 each) and left-hander Scott Elbert (\$575,000).







# 2013 Turkey Trot Fun Run Part 2

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



KSPN reporter Jillian Angeline and MARPAC's James Lee near the finish line of last week's 2013 Turkey Trot Fun Run.



Two runners from Saipan Swim Club are all smiles as they pass the halfway mark of the 4.2-mile race.



A group of runners slow it down as they negotiate a flat but rocky road on the way to Mt. Tapochao.



Kimiko McKagan runs with her dog Hanako.



Three runners negotiate an uphill road.



Chang Wan Jang in his trademark barefoot running.



Seiya Eda checks on runners ahead of him.



Michael Mancao is a few meters away from the finish line.



Two runners make a turn heading up to Mt. Tapochao.



Two runners pick up their pace on a flat road heading up to Mt. Tapochao.





Seahawks beat  
Saints 34-7 to  
clinch playoff spot

PAGE 24

# Saipan Tribune Sports



Duncan's jumper  
lifts Spurs over  
Hawks, 102-100

PAGE 25

28 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Defending champion proves mettle



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Joel Ortega plays for Saipan Badminton Club, which eked out an 18-12 win over Community Badminton Club last week in the Traders Insurance tournament at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Defending champion Saipan Badminton Club won its highly anticipated duel against the fast-rising Community Badminton Club in the 7th Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament.

SBC, which topped the last two editions of the annual tournament and is expected to meet a tough opposition in the young crew of CBC, pulled off an 18-12 victory after sweeping the final three matches of their pairing last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

The SBC-CBC tussle started on Nov. 24 with the defending champion taking a slight edge, 9-6, after five games. SBC won three matches, gaining 6 points after sweeping the women's AB and men's B doubles and 2 more off a three-game victory in the men's C doubles. A team is awarded 3 points from winning a match after only two games and 2 in a threegame tiff.



CBC, which has a roster composed of mainly U18 players, earned 3 points in the mixed B doubles and two in the men's BC doubles.

The young club then threatened an upset against the veteran players of SBC after sweeping the first two matches at the resumption of their duel last Friday. CBC was awarded 6 points after prevailing in the women's B and men's AB doubles and took the lead, 12-9.

However, SBC had the last laugh, as it dominated CBC in the last three matches. The defending champion swept CBC in the mixed C and BC doubles, and women's A doubles, to gain **See DEFENDING on Page 26**

## San Roque makes cut in DL Corp. caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

San Roque marched into the playoffs of the 2nd DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League after dominating CJ Signs, 81-64, in a make-up game last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

San Roque advanced into the first round after completing the round-robin elimination with a 3-4 record. It joined the company of Natural Mystic (4-3), CJ Signs (4-3), and I Love Saipan (2-4), while Pool B's unbeaten teams Island Floral (6-0) and San Antonio (5-0) are also in the playoffs, earning the two automatic quarterfinals berths. Maplas is eliminated along with Island Manpower, which finished pool play with a 2-5 record and would have lost in a tiebreak (via point system) with I Love Saipan even if the latter drops its final game. I Love Saipan still needs to beat San Antonio in its last match, but has already secured the final ticket to the first round



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

San Roque's Angelo Fernando, seen here pulling up for a jumper in an earlier game against Maplas, scored 20 points in the play-off-berth clinching win against CJ Signs, 81-64, in the DL Corp. caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

of the playoffs, as it earlier defeated Island Manpower, 86-53. Island Manpower was hoping **See SAN ROQUE on Page 26**

## Saipan bowlers compete in Asian Intercity



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan's Raymond Zapanta, left, and Raymond Angeles join the opening ceremony of the 27th Asian Intercity Bowling Championships last weekend at the Central Lanes Bowling Center in Tamuning, Guam.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Four Saipan bowlers were in Guam over the weekend and represented the island in the 27th Asian Intercity Bowling Championships held at the Central Lanes Bowling Center in

Tamuning. Raymond Zapanta, Raymond Angeles, Ariel Dumapit, and Simon Manacop competed in the men's singles and doubles events of the annual tournament that also drew teams from Hong Kong and host Guam and vari-



ous cities in Korea, Philippines, Malaysia.

Zapanta was the best finisher among four Saipan bets in the men's singles after collecting 1,181 pinfalls in six games. He recorded 200-plus pinfalls in Games 1 (232) and 3

(225) and logged 194, 180, 180, and 170 to average 196.83 pinfalls per game and place No. 11 among 43 competitors.

Manacop and Angeles occupied the No. 23 and 24th places, respectively, while Dumapit finished at No. 41. Manacop was sluggish in the first three **See SAIPAN on Page 26**